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October 2021

STANFORD

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EASTHAM

ROCHFORD



**Inside this month's issue
Harvest Festivals, Pumpkinfest, films and a Big Breakfast
and all your parish news**

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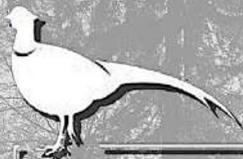
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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

September 2021

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

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www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

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

Dear Villagers

As well as being somewhere to worship and also a peaceful place to be, our local churches were valued as places to celebrate life events by those responding to our recent questionnaires. Life events are better known as weddings, funerals and christenings and we have hosted a number of weddings and christenings over the summer months of 2021. The cover of this edition of TemeTalk features one of our couples and, as I write, I'm looking forward to our second wedding in September, with one more before the month is out. It is so exciting to be able to welcome wedding and christening parties after months last year without such services.

As couples or families come into our church buildings and make vows in the presence of God witnessed by family and friends, I always feel deeply honoured to be with them at these special times. Such a lot of thought and preparation goes into a few short hours, but the day will be long remembered. It is recorded through photos and written into registers that will be remain years after the event is over. As a priest it is important to me that those attending such events feel welcome and relaxed – but I haven't yet perfected the miracle of changing water into wine as Jesus did when he attended the wedding at Cana! Nonetheless, I do hope that those who are present sense something of God's abundance and know that, as we gather, we are participating in an event that points beyond the people there towards the mystery and love that encompasses all things. So may those who have been married or christened in one of our Teme Valley South churches be blessed, and if this inspires you to follow in their foot-steps, do get in touch!

Rev'd Julia

See more photographs on page 10

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Mike Williams, 01885 410480
stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

Eastham – Helen Matravers, 01584 781510

Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

Stanford – Robin Dean, 01886 853295

Teme Valley South Contacts

Priest-in-charge: Julia Curtis 01886 853286

Associate Priest: Sally Jones 01584 819435

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

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Parish news

From the registers

On Saturday 4th September, under glorious blue skies, we celebrated the marriage of Dawn Adams and Philip Gilbert in Eastham church. Later in the month saw the baptism of Brooke Whittle on 12th September in Rochford church. Congratulations to all concerned!

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to Vera Beale from Rochford with a funeral service at Wyre Forest Crematorium. Our prayers are with Vera's family and friends at this time.

Events from the registers after 15th September will be published in next month's TemeTalk.

Services in TVS churches

We are now formally out of lockdown, but with ongoing high Covid case levels nationally, and so we start to learn to live with the disease. In TVS we will be adopting a cautious approach, with kindness and looking out for the safety of each other as our primary concern. At services:

- We will be offering hand sanitiser.
- Masks and social distancing during services will be preferred but optional. Please respect the choices of others.
- Communion will be offered in the revised format we have been using for a number of months.
- Congregational singing is back!

Services are as advertised on page 28 and we will continue to produce some online services and pray daily on Zoom.

Teme Valley Tots

We will be meeting weekly during October. Our original venue is not available due to building works and so we are trying to find an alternative. Please email Eve on assistanttvspcc@gmail.com or telephone Rev Julia on 01886 853286 for further details.

**This month's front cover photograph:
Dawn Adams and Philip Gilbert
following their wedding at Eastham
on 4th September**

Harvest Festivals

Do take a look at the individual community pages for the various harvest events taking place around Teme Valley South in October. Lots on offer, from the more traditional lunch and church service, to farm based Harvest Festivals for all the family, village teas and a walking church. We do hope you find something that suits and come and join as part of our communities in thankfulness for the wonderful abundance of produce we are blessed with in this place.

Services times and openings

Our church buildings are now open once more. 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.

Kyre Wyard will still be attended from 2 to 5pm on Friday afternoons, with 'Take Breath' our silent prayer time open to all from 4 to 4.30pm

Rev'd Julia

TemeTalk
ronsmum@btconnect.com



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Rochford 49 Club Congratulations

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Wednesday winners

Aug 25th	No 38	Rod Ricketts
Sept 1st	No 57	not sold
Sept 8th	No 52	not sold
Sept 15th	No 50	not sold

Saturday winners

Aug 21st	No 51	not sold
Aug 28th	No 41	not sold
Sept 4th	No 34	Rob Perrin
Sept 11th	No 39	John Forsyth
Sept 18th	No 12	Jennifer Gledhill

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!

Ring Gill Smith on

07815 030050

Teme Valley Tote

September's prize draw of the Tote (the fourth draw in this series) was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 1st September to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Family Burgoyne** of Stanford (No 566)
£30 – **Mrs P Bunn** of Knighton (No 651)
£20 – **Celia Hills** of Knighton (No 639)

If you have any queries please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com. You can still join if you wish, please contact Robin.

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Rochford Rochford Rochford

Rochford Rocks and Fête

Thanks to everyone who supported and helped with these two major fund-raising events, they were both very successful and raised around £1,100 and £2,400 respectively. This is a record for Rochford so well done to everyone involved. Already thinking ahead to next year so if you have ideas, please let me know.

The village hall

The village hall roof has been completed. It's a relief to have it watertight before the winter, and together with the big window at the front which has also now been replaced the hall is looking good at last. Unfortunately the ceiling plaster is not very safe, and although it has probably been like that for years, now we know about it some major replastering work needs to be done to make it safe which was not originally budgeted for. So the village hall will sadly have to remain closed until the work is complete and some of our planned events will have to be relocated to other village halls – please check before attending events.

Once the plastering is complete we can start cleaning and painting and details of dates for working parties will be posted on the village WhatsApp group, so please come along and help. If you are not on the Parish WhatsApp group and would like to be, please send your name and mobile number to Andrew on 07809 658484.

Neighbourhood lunches

Neighbourhood lunches are back on the last Tuesday of the month so the next lunch will be on Tuesday 26th October, hopefully in the village hall but otherwise takeaways will be available. Booking is essential so please contact Ann on 01584 781317.

The Big Breakfast

This has been rescheduled to Saturday 2nd October at 9.30am at Hanley Village Hall. See full details on page 14.

Quiz Night and Supper

Rochford Quiz Night and Supper is back on 19th November. We welcome back the West Midlands' Premier Quiz Master who has arranged a fun quiz for all with a great range of rounds including trivia, true or false, sport, music and many more. Please book your place as numbers are limited and we need to order the fish and chip supper. Put the date in your diary and come along to this very popular event.

Harvest celebrations

Rochford Harvest Service and Supper will be on 10th October at 5.30pm, the service in the church and supper to follow (venue to be confirmed). Everyone is welcome to either or both, but please book supper with Ann (01584 781317). Any donations of produce for harvest and non-perishables including tins and packets etc would also be appreciated and will be passed on to those in need (through local food banks) whose harvest is sadly lacking.

We will be cleaning and decorating the church ready for harvest from 2pm on Saturday 9th October. Any help would be much appreciated – and the church always looks lovely for harvest. We actually had an unsolicited compliment at a christening on Sunday when a little boy walked into the church and said, "it's beautiful in here!" so come along and enjoy it.

Rochford church services

Physical church services are back, and we are allowed to sing! Services are at 6.30 pm on the second Sunday and 10am on the fourth Sunday in the month. Everyone is very welcome.

All Souls Service

Rochford will once again host this service, when we remember those loved ones we have lost, on Tuesday 2nd November at 6pm. It is always a very moving service.

Andrew Barbé

A sad farewell to Vera Beale – see page 12

TemeTalk
ronsmum@btconnect.com
01568 750665

Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Our fabulous bus shelter



The bus shelter in Stoke Bliss is looking truly amazing. Huge thanks to Mandy and John Ward for dressing it so magnificently and also for its upkeep.

I'm sure it gives joy to everyone passing. We must surely have the best bus shelter in the Teme Valley – if not in Worcestershire.

Mary and Peter Chomiak



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NEW DATE!

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Maggie has at last completed this history of
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Roy Taylor – an appreciation

Roy Taylor was born on 12th March 1928 and spent all his life farming, initially at Rushock where he met his wife Dilys who was from a neighbouring farm. He visited Finland and Sweden with Kidderminster Young Farmers and his love of travel never left him. He explored Europe widely, continuing after he moved to be with his daughter Gill and son-in-law David at Cross Farm, Stoke Bliss after Dilys died. They have many memories of places they went to with him. Looking back through old photos they discovered his love of motorbikes and going to Silverstone in the 1950s. He was always willing to lend a hand to his neighbours in their farming activities from singling beet to driving the tractors.

He entered the Produce and Handicraft Show at Stoke Bliss and Kyre, often winning with his knitted articles. He learnt Fair Isle knitting and vied with Jeremy Harris to decide who could cook the best Victoria sponge!

His love of farming never ceased as he enjoyed the variety of seasons and activities. He always said that when Gill moved to Stoke Bliss he and his goats had to follow! He loved gardening, creating the garden at Cross Farm, and his grandchildren were a great pleasure to him.

So go well Roy, may the paradise garden be up to your standard. With love and sympathy to Roy's family at this time.

Maggie Kingston

Eastham Jottings

Flowers, cleaning and sidesman

October – Rhiannon Chapman
November – Diana Potter

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Join us on Wednesday 6th October at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. Support Macmillan, have a coffee, some cake and a chat. Please bring a cake – any leftovers can be sold on this month's bring & buy stall. If you would like to make a donation to Macmillan, please drop a cash donation to Celia Adams at Eastham Court to be added to the grand total. There will be a special raffle with a prize of afternoon tea for two at the Green Meal, Oldwood Common, so come along and get your raffle tickets.

Pub Night

A welcome return for Eastham Pub Night starting on 15th October and then on the third Friday of the month until December. First orders at 7.30pm. Come along, chat with the regulars and help us restart this evening. Hope to see you there. Cheers!



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Autumn clean of churchyard and church

Please come along on Saturday 16th October, 10am to 1pm, with gardening utensils to tackle the churchyard. There's lots to be done to straighten everything up for the winter, so everyone is welcome, whatever skills.

After a barbecue from 1 to 2pm we will tackle the church interior including finishing the flower arrangements for the harvest festival. Tea and cakes to finish, crèche available all day!

Community Garden

It's time to think about replanting for some winter colour. We hope you managed to try the strawberries, tomatoes and cucumbers planted by the children earlier in the year.

If you have any ideas for planting schemes please contact Eastham Residents Association in the next few weeks with your suggestions. There will be a replanting date in mid November and we will also be putting in some small fruit trees to continue the edible theme. More details in the next TemeTalk. Call David Clarke on 01584 781505 with any queries.

Zumba Gold, Pilates and Yoga at Eastham Memorial Hall

Zumba Gold on Wednesdays at 1pm. Call Lucia Becci on 07709 301030, email lu.500@live.co.uk, or Celia Adams on 01584 781258, email easthamcourt@icloud.com. Bring strong uncoloured trainers, a towel and a bottle of water.

Pilates on Tuesdays at 1pm and 2pm. A taster session can be arranged with Sue – for more information please contact Sue on 07974 343609 or email sue579@icloud.com.

Yoga on Wednesdays at 7.30pm and Fridays at 10am. Please contact Zoe on 07962 981456 or email info@zedyoga.co.uk.

Christmas Floral Workshop

Make a diary note for Thursday 2nd December at 6.30pm in the Memorial Hall.

Celia Adams

*Pumpkinfest and Children's
Hallowe'en Party – see page 14!*

Hanley Happenings

Bob Studer

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Bob whose funeral was on 20th September in Hanley William.

Born in 1938, during a long career as a structural engineer he worked not only in the UK but in Saudi Arabia for four years and for three years in Brunei where Maureen joined him, ending his career working for the London Underground on the Jubilee Line.

Bon and Maureen retired to the Hanleys in 2001 and within six months threw themselves in to village life. Maureen says that this was partly due to the very warm welcome they received when they went to Hanley William church on their 40th wedding anniversary. Maureen quickly became involved in the Friday market and many hall events, while Bob's contribution to the wellbeing of the church building itself was immense, including work to the shingle spire, commissioning new railings and churchyard maintenance in his role as churchwarden. His business experience came to the fore when he dealt with the ramifications and aftermath of one of the most turbulent times in church life here in the parish – something he could never have foreseen when he agreed to be a churchwarden. He was responsible for organising a new organ and when we ran out of organists he was the only man who could operate the machine, which was capable of playing every hymn you could possibly know!

His passions were riding fast motor bikes and his love of metalwork which he carried out in his shed in the garden. A man of integrity with a quiet, dry sense of humour, we shall all miss him in the Hanleys. Our prayers and thoughts are with Maureen and their three sons and their families.

Break-in alert

In recent weeks a couple of farms have been broken into, so do be aware that while we may live in a beautiful place, this stuff does still go on and if you see something with which you are not familiar, make sure neighbours are alerted.

Table tennis

On Mondays at 7pm, just £3 per evening.

Meet and greet tea party

The village hall came to life again on 11th September for a tea party to which all residents in our village (Hanley William, Hanley Childe and the Broadheath) were invited. Sixty people came which is about a quarter of everyone who lives here. It was good to hear so much noise and chatter and hopefully everyone was able to meet at least someone they didn't know before the event.

Many thanks to all who made such a fantastic array of cakes, to Anne Prosser for a delicious tea, scones and sandwiches and last but by no means least to Anna Fletcher whose plant sale in May funded the event. In fact there was so much food that some of it has been frozen and will be offered before the showing of *The Professor and the Madman* at the village hall on 16th October (see page 13).

We would really like people to come forward with new ideas for the village community. The Hanley Happening, our version of the village fête which was originally planned for May 2020, will take place in May next year so if you are keen to get involved please get in touch.

PT

Following the tea party Emma and Alan Bate from The Walled Garden wrote:

“We just wanted to say a huge ‘thank you’ for the lovely tea party at Hanley village hall. As newcomers to the area it was really nice to have the opportunity to meet some more people in the village, and we received a warm welcome. We really appreciated the wonderful spread and the hard work of those involved in organising the occasion.”

Hanley Parish Council

The next parish council meeting will be at 7.15pm on Tuesday 9th November. Anyone is welcome to attend – it would be wonderful to attract new parish councillors!

Art Classes

Art classes are on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8.30 pm at Hanley Village Hall. Please contact Ange Jordan on 07830 914430 if you would like to join.

Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Where to begin again?

There are lots of things happening over the next couple of months at St Mary's.

Harvest lunch

Stanford's Harvest Festival event on 3rd October at 11am will be at Noverton Farm (WR6 6SG) by kind invitation of David and Michelle Evington. There will be a Harvest Celebration, activities for children, an opportunity to meet the farm animals followed by a Harvest Lunch – this will be free of charge but we are asking for donations to Farmers Overseas Action Group (a charity supporting farmers and their families in Uganda). If you wish to attend, please book via a Facebook event (Stanford Harvest Festival) or phone Michelle on 07894 747807

Wine and cheese party

Everyone in Stanford is invited to a **free** wine and cheese party on 23rd October at 6pm at St Mary's. To encourage you to come, we will be giving each attender a raffle ticket for the £100 Fortnum and Masons hamper or the box of sweets given to us by Barclays. Please put the date in your diary. **Be there or be square!**

Wine tasting

Brian reports, "The consensus of opinion is that we should delay the wine tasting until next year so please anticipate 21st or 22nd April 2022 – two years since we had to cancel our original date. Don't come in your car! Instead, please have your Tardis well serviced so that you can arrive at Stanford Village Hall on 23rd April 2020, between 7 and 7.30pm."

Dates for your diary

6th November at 10am: sale of jumpers – your opportunity to obtain an early Christmas present for your nearest and dearest!

7th November at 10am: normal Communion Service with hymns

14th November at 10.30am: Remembrance Day Service – other churches in TVS will have their own services. Please come and support this service.

Christmas Tree Festival

We hope to have a live event this Christmas. If you would like to help organise it, please contact Robin on 01886 853295. More news next month.

St Mary's church

The church is now open every day from dawn to dusk. The front door will be open and the main door will be closed but unlocked. Please visit and sign the visitors book and leave any donations you wish! There will still be hand gel in the porch which you are encouraged to use.

Volunteers please – again

People have joined both the area 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

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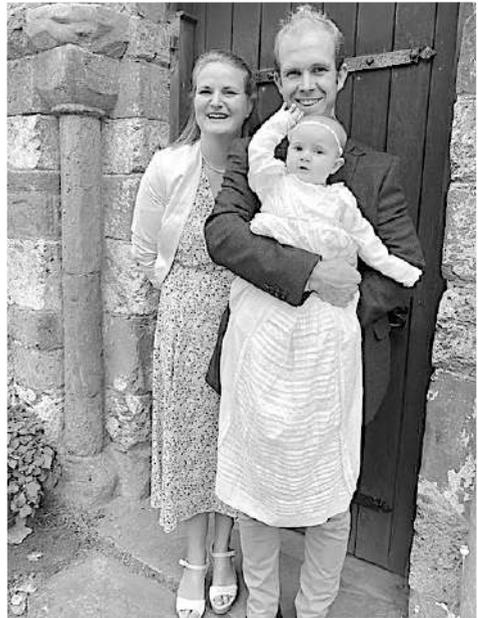
Christenings in Teme Valley South



(Above) Brooke Whittle with her parents and god-parents and (below) the font decorated with hops for Evalyn, Orla and Iyla Bennett



(Above) William and Sidney Johnson
(Below) Clementine Bradley



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Visit www.kyreparkantiques.co.uk for information about future events in the grounds of Kyre Park. Antique fairs hosting up to 50

dealers and other themed events will each offer visitors a great day out, always with refreshments available in beautiful surroundings. And they are open to your suggestions for suitable events, too. Sign up to receive newsletters.



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www.kyreparkantiques.co.uk, 01885 410361

Kyre Park and the Antiques Barn are just off the Bromyard Road (B4214) and are well signposted about three miles south east of Tenbury Wells.

Vera Beale

Rochford said a sad farewell to Vera Beale who had lived at Sunnycroft in the village for over 30 years after moving here with her late husband Joe.

Joe and Vera were a devoted couple and did everything together. They spent many hours working in their lovely garden but also enjoyed time abroad in the sun. Vera trained as a seamstress and was a keen crafter, not only knitting and sewing but also some major DIY projects including building their stone fireplace.

Since losing her beloved Joe, Vera found life difficult at times but tried to embrace village life with encouragement from her friends and neighbours. She often walked to church and enjoyed the company at neighbourhood lunches and other village events. My enduring memory of her will be dancing the night away at Rochford Rocks.

The support of her village friends and neighbours kept her going through her dark times.

We send our sincere condolences to her family including her daughters, Jan and Di, her two grandsons and her four great grandsons.

Andrew Barbé

Word of the month

FULMINATE

to send forth harsh criticisms or insults

"The writer of the editorial fulminated against the corruption in the state government that has been recently uncovered."



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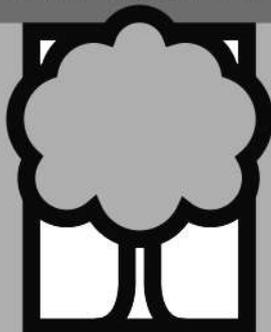
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Saturday 16th October, 7.30pm

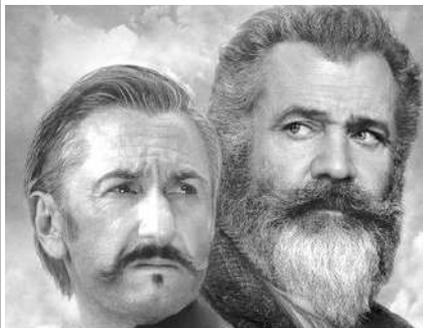
The Professor and the Madman

Professor James Murray begins work compiling words for the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary in the mid-19th century, and receives over 10,000 entries from a patient at Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Dr William Minor.

Stars Mel Gibson, Sean Penn, Eddie Marsan
Directed by Farhad Safinia

To welcome you back this screening will be free of charge!

Doors open at 6.30 for free sandwiches and cake



Saturday 20th November, 7.30pm

Dream Horse

Dream Alliance is an unlikely racehorse bred by small-town Welsh bartender Jan Vokes. With no experience, Jan convinces her neighbours to chip in their meagre earnings to help raise Dream in the hope that he can compete with the racing elites.

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Sunday 17th October
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Entries to the church from 9 to 9.45am
Judging by Curate Philip



Classes

1. Three squash
2. Display of home-grown vegetables
3. Heaviest pumpkin
4. Largest pumpkin by circumference
5. Children: an animal made from fruit or vegetable

You don't have to live in Eastham to take part – just join in, it's all for fun!

Enquires to Jen Jones jonesjengem@yahoo.co.uk
or Nicky Webb nudgecorner@gmail.com



Children's Hallowe'en Party

Eastham Memorial Hall

Sunday 31st October, 4 to 6pm

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A bit of nonsense from Jeremy Harris

An old man once said to his daughter,
"You've got an addiction to waughter."
She said "I know dad,
"it's a terrible fad,
"I can't give it up but I aughter."

Said he, "at one time, dear, you coulda
"and I thought that with effort you woulda,
"But when it came to it,
"You said 'I can't do it!'"
"I know dad," she said, "and I shoulda."

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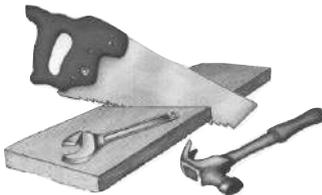
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A warm welcome back to the Riverside

There's nothing like being welcomed when you walk into a pub, even if the person doing the welcoming is someone you know from another pub. So it was when we arrived at The Riverside at Aymestry for our wedding anniversary Sunday lunch. We were greeted like long-lost friends by George, who used to run The Plough at Wistanstow where we often used to take the Boss's mother for lunch. He's been at The Riverside for two years now, and he was just what we needed to make us feel welcome and comfortable.

George showed us to our table and drinks quickly arrived. It was the Bank Holiday weekend and the pub was busy with families, walkers, dog and children, but the service was impeccable, friendly waiters and waitresses appearing just when we needed them, the food arriving at just the right times.

And the food was as wonderful as ever. The Boss's carrot and coriander soup was – well, it was soup but he said it was good. I had ham hock terrine with some kind of coleslaw thing that tasted delicious. Then we both had roast beef – sliced thin, pink and ten-

der – with an enormous fluffy yorkshire pudding, crispy roast potatoes and vegetables – just what Sunday lunch ought to be. Our blue cheese ice cream with poached pears was intriguing – not too cheese-y but delightful.

We finished with coffee and (thanks to me having told George why we were there when we arrived) a surprise of complementary brownies with raspberries to celebrate our anniversary.

We've been going to this lovely old pub for years, when Andy Link was "just" the head chef and after he took over as chef patron, so we know how wonderful his cooking is – everything made and freshly cooked on site, with herbs and vegetables from the kitchen garden which is looked after by Andy and his team. But lately, what with one thing and another, the pub had dropped off our radar. After that fabulous meal and George's warm welcome, we will definitely be back!

SG

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Harvest Festival Services in Teme Valley South

This summer the National Food Strategy was published and it will form the focus of our harvest services.

Two years ago the government asked Henry Dumbleby to look at how food is grown, processed, transported, sold and consumed in this country and to come up with a food strategy. He carried out a careful examination and consulted with many groups and individuals. The strategy was published in July this year and the Government has said it will produce a white paper within six months.

Our harvest services will pick up on the themes of the report. (Facts/figures/stories are from the report which can be found at www.nationalfoodstrategy.org.) The full report is 288 pages long, but this brief summary reflects its findings and recommendations and in our harvest festival services we will respond in the light of our Christian faith.

Thanksgiving for the past

The world population has increased enormously and is now around 7.8 billion people. Mass starvation was predicted but (largely) avoided because of the innovation of farmers and researchers in developing new and more productive varieties of crops, more efficient ways of keeping and breeding livestock, and making agriculture far more fruitful. But that has been achieved with unintended and (largely) unforeseen consequences to the health of the environment, humans and society.

Environmental health

As farming has intensified there has been loss of biodiversity, increased greenhouse gases (GHGs) and water pollution.

Land used for food production (arable or animal) means less available for wild life. Only 20 species of plants make up 90% of the world's food with just three species, wheat, maize and rice, make up more than half the world's food. The proportion of oceans overfished has increased. Not every area of the UK has secure water provision. We have some of the most polluted waters in the UK. The food industry has reduced GHGs but not as fast as some other industries.

Human health

Humans evolved when food and the calories it gives us were scarce. Consequently our appetites steer us towards calorie dense food. But we are also "programmed" so those high calorie foods take longer for our brains to feel that our stomachs are full.

Food manufacturing companies have realized the profitability of high calorie products and the calories of their produce has increased and we have become fatter. Fifty percent of UK household food purchases are of ultra-processed food. This compares to 14% for France and 13% for Italy. This hasn't been good for us as individuals or for the NHS or the economy.

The government spends an estimated £18 billion – 8% of all government healthcare expenditure – on conditions related to high body mass index (BMI) every year. This is before you account for diet-related disease not linked to weight. In 2019/20, there were just over 1 million hospital admissions where obesity was recorded as the primary or a secondary diagnosis – a 17% increase on 2018/19. If we don't get diet-related disease under control, we risk overwhelming the NHS – or having to cut other public services to pay for it. Currently it is projected that by 2035/36 type 2 diabetes alone will cost the NHS one and half times the amount currently spent on treating all cancers.

Also, ill people are less able to work. The Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that the combined cost of conditions related to high BMI, in lost workforce productivity, reduction in life expectancy and NHS funds, is £74 billion every year. This is equivalent to cutting the UK's GDP by 3.4%. To cover these costs, each person in the United Kingdom pays an additional £409 in taxes per year.

Society's health

This affects poor people more than others. Poverty causes high levels of stress. Scarcity of money, food or time affects people's ability to think straight. Those from the poorest households are much less likely to plan and cook meals from scratch – because all their energy is taken up with coping with short term challenges.

The stress of poverty also interferes with the hormones that regulate appetite. The more exhausted and strung out we are, the harder it is to resist temptation. Not coincidentally, people in deprived areas tend to be surrounded by the temptations of junk food. There are more junk food outlets in poor areas with almost twice as many in the most deprived areas compared to the least. In one deprived area in northwest England, there are 230 fast food outlets for every 100,000 people compared to an England-wide average of 96.

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Continued from page 19

In these so-called “food swamps”, junk food is everywhere but fresh ingredients are harder to find. Roughly 3.3 million people cannot reach any food stores selling raw ingredients within 15 minutes by public transport (40% of the lowest income households lack access to a car). Without a local shop selling fresh ingredients, or a car to get you to the supermarket, or a fridge to keep perishables in, cooking from scratch becomes dauntingly difficult.

So, what to do? The report makes various recommendations including,

- Large food companies to report on how healthy/unhealthy their products are and a tax on highly processed foods to reduce the amount of high calorie food that is eaten and to provide money for the report's other recommendations.
- Schools to be places where children learn to cook. Some schools are better at this than others! Free school meals to be more widely available—and in holidays.
- Expand the healthy start scheme with fresh fruit and vegetable going to low income families and trial a “community eatwell” programme sup-

porting people on low incomes

- Use the most productive land for most food production. Take some of the least productive land and use it for establishing forests. Use the in-between land for food production in a way that combines the best of food production and biodiversity. Ensure farmers are properly paid for providing public benefits, ie biodiversity, carbon sequestration, flood management ...

- Reduce the amount of meat eaten by 30% – particularly highly processed meat.

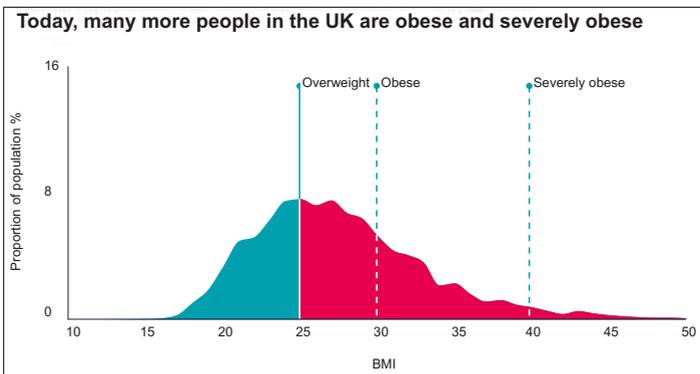
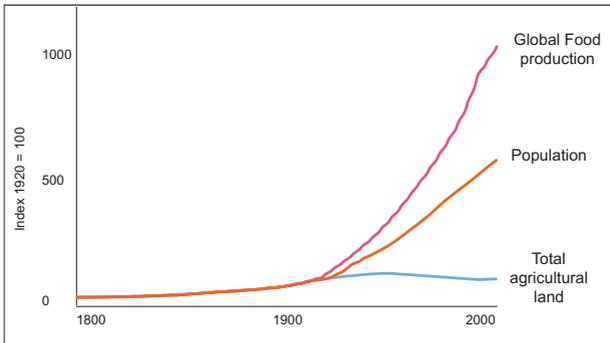
- Guarantee the agricultural budget until at least 2029.

- Future trade deals should ensure UK farmers are not competing with overseas farmers with lesser environmental or animal welfare standards.

- Government to use its spending (eg meals in schools, prisons, hospitals) on healthy sustainable food.

Not a recommendation of the report, but a Christian response is to take all this to God in prayer. That is what we will be doing in our harvest festivals to which everyone is very welcome.

Robert Barlow



Rock Bridge Club



Rock Bridge Club's new season has begun. New members are welcome, either on your own or with a partner. We meet every Sunday at 7pm at Rock Village Hall. The meetings are

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TemeTalk

Deadline 18th October

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Teme Valley Wildlife

Worcestershire has long been known for its fruit-growing. Apples, pears, plums, damsons, cherries and blackcurrants all thrive in the moderate climate and fertile soil of our county. Here is a traveller looking down from Broad-way Hill in the late eighteenth century: "I well remember standing some time to gaze over the rich country below. The day was fine and the Vale of Evesham lay below me spread out like a map, the fruit trees and hedges being whitened with the finest blossom that ever was known." The traveller was England's "Father of Geology" William Smith.

Today orchards are far fewer. Apples are still produced commercially for cider-makers and cherries are now grown inside poly-tunnels, but pears and traditional stone-fruit are



no longer economical to produce. Many old orchards still hang on though, untended and unpruned, sometimes grazed by horses. Some are notable for their festoons of mistletoe, others for nurturing lesser known creatures. Past-their-prime trees provide a home for one of these, a rare beetle

called the noble chafer. Although once present in Kent and Devon, it is now only to be found in the three counties of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire, in the dead wood of old orchards.

One of Worcestershire's veteran naturalists, Harry Green, has long been fascinated by these insects and has pioneered projects to identify likely sites where they might live, encouraged volunteers to look for evidence of them inside decaying trees and toured the county to spot adult beetles during their short flight time between July and August. This year he has been testing a new pheromone trap in the Teme Valley to try and attract these otherwise rather elusive insects.

I'm pleased to report that, loaned to the TVWG, the trap has found four beetles, all safely released I hasten to add, and that I have seen one for the first time in my own orchard. That I'd never spotted one before surprised me as it's a big beetle, the size of the end of my thumb and an iridescent green to boot. Their life-cycle perhaps explains why. The adults live just four to six weeks, during which time they mate and lay eggs in decaying fruit-tree wood. The developing larvae munch through rotting wood for two years then take flight as adult beetles. They sometimes visit hogweed flowers where you might be lucky enough to spot one. To help them, if you've an old fruit tree then let it quietly moulder to give a home

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

to these odd characters. They might be unseen, but they are definitely still around.

Despite the lifting of legally-binding coronavirus restrictions the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is experiencing challenges in arranging meetings in our familiar format. Our speaker secretary is working very hard to adapt our programme because some speakers have become unable or reluctant to come and deliver a talk in person. We hope that we will soon be able to offer meetings where we can meet not only the speaker but one another too. As this is proving tricky at the moment, thank you TVWG members and friends for all your ongoing support.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is on Thursday 14th October when Suzanne Noble is scheduled to give a talk entitled "Growing native orchids in meadows and gardens". For details of how to join us please consult our website or Facebook page. Everyone is most welcome.

Stephanie Mcroft

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. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive pho-

tographs are available on our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk We normally holds 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



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What's on in Teme Valley South

October

- 2nd Saturday The Big Breakfast, Rochford Village Hall, 9.30am
3rd Sunday Stanford Harvest Festival at Noverton Farm, 11am
4th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
6th Wednesday Macmillan Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
10th Sunday Rochford Harvest Festival followed by supper, 5.30pm
11th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
15th Friday Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
16th Saturday Autumn clean of Eastham church and churchyard, 10am
Book signing, Kyre Church, 2.30pm
Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, 6.30pm
17th Sunday Pumpkinfest, Eastham church, 9am onwards
Eastham Harvest Farmhouse Tea, Eastham Memorial Hall, 5pm
18th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
23rd Saturday Free wine and cheese party, St Mary's Stanford, 6pm
26th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall
28th Thursday ERA Autumn Meeting, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
31st Sunday Children's Hallowe'en Party, Eastham Memorial Hall, 4pm

November

- 1st Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
2nd Tuesday All Souls Service, Rochford, 6pm
3rd Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
6th Saturday St Mary's Jumper Sale, Stanford Village Hall, 10am
8th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
9th Tuesday Hanley Parish Council meeting, 7.15pm
15th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
19th Friday Rochford Quiz Night and Supper, Rochford Village Hall
Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
20th Saturday Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, 7.30pm
22nd Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
30th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall

December

- 1st Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
2nd Thursday Christmas Floral Workshop, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6.30pm
6th Sunday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
13th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
17th Friday Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
28th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall

**Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the month
telephone 01568 750665
or email ronsmum@btconnect.com**

Services

October/November 2021

We are continuing with prayer 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.

The Church of England has a pre-recorded weekly online 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.

Sunday Services

Facemasks for services inside a church are preferred but optional

Sunday 3rd October

10.00am	Stoke Bliss	Harvest Festival
11.00am	Stanford	Harvest Festival at Noverton Farm
6.30pm	Worcester	Diocesan Harvest in Worcester Cathedral

Sunday 10th October

10.00am	Hanley William	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Stanford	Praise Service
5.30pm	Rochford	Harvest Service followed by
6.30pm	Rochford	Harvest Supper

Sunday 17th October

10.00am	Eastham	All-age Harvest
2.00pm		Walking Church
3.30pm	Hanley Childe	Hanley Harvest

Sunday 25th October

10.00am	Rochford	All-age Service and Communion
3.30pm	Kyre	Celtic Evening Service

Sunday 31st October

9.30am	Hanley Village Hall	Café Church
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Don't forget to change your clocks!

Tuesday 2nd November

6.00pm	Rochford	Teme Valley South All Souls Service
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