



The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No. 10 Jan. 2024

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Contact Kathryn 628087

The Downs and Valley Churches Service Rota January 2024

January 2024	St George's Darlingscott	St Mary's Ilmington	St Mary's Preston-on-Stour	St Peter's Stretton-on-Fosse	St Gregory's Tredington	St Mary's Whitchurch
7th Epiphany <i>(transferred from 6th)</i>		11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	<i>No services until March</i>
14th Epiphany 2	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Holy Communion	11.00am Holy Communion	
21st Epiphany 3		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	
28th The Presentation of Christ <i>(transferred from 2nd Feb)</i>	4.00pm Evening Prayer (1662)	6.00pm Evening Worship for The Presentation (Candlemas)	11.00am Morning Worship		11.00am Holy Communion	

For further information, please search for the Church name and click on the relevant 'A Church Near You' page. (This is more effective than searching 'A Church Near You' directly.)

Ministers:

Rector: The Revd Canon Dr Richard Cooke 07952 544820 (mobile) or 01608 544821 (landline) or

Richard.Cooke.Ilmington@Outlook.com

Hon. Assistant Minister: The Revd Dr Tim Seller

Reader: Ros Wakefield

Reader Emeritus: Malcolm Davies

01608 682244 (landline)

01608 682146 (landline)

01789 450793 (landline)

Churchwardens:

Tredington

Darlingscott Doreen McCarroll

Ilmington Jane Downie

Preston-on-Stour Andrew Holman- West

Stretton-on-Fosse *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*

Whitchurch Carol Rutter

Posts vacant – contact the Rector

01608 682949 (landline)

01608 682720 (landline)

07712 193773 (mobile)

Helen Patrick

01789 450795 (landline)

John Craner

01789 450200 (landline)

Enquiries about Weddings or Baptisms are very welcome! Please contact the Rector, Richard Cooke.

Richard Cooke, the Rector, writes:

On the First Day of Christmas my True Love Sent to Me..

This edition of the Magazine should arrive while we are still within the Twelve Days of Christmas and end on 6 January with Epiphany. Most people know the old song about the twelve days and the strange gifts that 'my true love sent to me.' No-one is quite sure where the song came from, but some have found in it a deeper meaning: each of the gifts can have a Christian significance, connected to the Bible. Rather than spell out that significance for you, I thought you might like to try a quiz. Clues for each gift are below. There's a box of Christmas chocolates for the first set of correct answers emailed to me (Richard.Cooke.Ilmington@Outlook.com) by 15 January!

A partridge in a pear tree – what gift might correspond to the bird known for being prepared to die to protect its young? (And remember, this is the Christmas Day gift.)

Two turtledoves – what is a dove the symbol of in the Bible, and what two things might that have inspired?

Three French hens – three virtues, of which the last is the greatest.

Four calling birds – four things or people which each tell a story.

Five golden rings – an ancient 'famous five' which begin at the beginning.

Six geese a-laying – six things each producing something fresh, connected to the second part of the last clue.

Seven swans – seven gifts, connected to the symbol in clue 2.

Eight maids a-milking – milkmaids were thought to be poor, but pure in spirit, and so blessed. What eight blessings might they represent?

Nine ladies dancing – nine fruits or virtues, often thought to be feminine.

Ten lords a-leaping – these could be Law Lords, so what might 10 represent?

Eleven pipers piping – eleven is twelve minus one: so who is this group?

Twelve drummers drumming – not actually in the Bible this time, but a summary of belief, with twelve main points.

Happy quizzing – and Happy New Year!

St Mary's Whitchurch

Whitchurch has gone into its usual winter hibernation, and will wake up for Mothering Sunday, 10 March, when there will be service at 4.00pm. Thanks to all those who joined the churchyard working party in early December, to put it to bed. I'm not sure when the winter closure of Whitchurch began, but was intrigued to see that as far back as 1851 the Rector, the Revd R.Pritchard, said that 'In more favourable weather there is better attendance in the Church, which lies in an isolated situation at some distance from the greater part of the inhabitants of the parish.' It looks as if it was very muddy then too!

From the Registers

Wedding

At Preston-on-Stour on 9 December, Lydia Bates and Angus Harley

Editor's Note

Happy New Year! The deadline for copy for the February 2024 issue is Saturday 20 January to Susan Brock, Editor, E.

s.brock9@btinternet.com, Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington, CV36 4LA. Please note that the limit for editorial articles is 150 words. Enquiries about advertising to Tim Seller: E. Tim.Seller@outlook.com, Long Barn, Back St., Ilmington, CV36 4LJ.

The image on this month's cover is by Steven Prosser of Ilmington. I'm always looking for artwork so if you have a painting, drawing or photograph which you would like to submit, email it to me, Susan Brock, as a jpg or PDF file (portrait layout). Age is no barrier! No computer? Drop it round to my house (see address above) and I'll scan it for you.

Nature Notes January 2024

A frost might mean that it is cold and we long for warmer weather! But did you know that there are 4 types of frost? Hoar, air, grass and ground frost. Ground and grass frosts are more common between Autumn and Spring, while air and hoar frosts occur mostly in the winter season. The word "hoar" comes from an old English word, it looks feathery so completely different from the frosts we are used to seeing. Frost looks so beautiful, to see a spider's web covered in frost looks stunning. A man called Job in the Bible said "Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens?" and he declared that "By the breath of God frost is given." So although it might be cold outside try and have a look at the beauty of God's handiwork displayed for all to see.

Gill

RBL Poppy Appeal 2023

Armscote, Blackwell, Darlingscott and Ilmington

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, I would like to thank everyone that generously donated towards this year's appeal, the collection raised £2157.68. I would also like to express my thanks to everyone that kindly helped with the collection; your assistance is greatly appreciated.

David Lerner

Link to Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2023

A very big **THANK YOU** to everyone who gifted a shoebox for a family or an elderly person as part of our annual Appeal. The boxes - **all 121 of them** - arrived in Eastern Europe in time for Christmas Day. Also on the lorry were **ten cartons** of knitted scarves, hats, baby jackets and mittens, all donated by local ladies, some of whom have spent months knitting away.

And to those of you who donated a grand total of **£295** towards the Appeal, your generosity is always so much appreciated. Special mention to the children of Ilmington School and the ladies of Lower Quinton who continue to give us their loyal support, and to our village collectors.

Wendy Lewis Edwards, Appeal coordinator

ILMINGTON

St Mary's Church

We hope you are all enjoying the stunning Christmas tree on the church tower. Wharf Farm has again produced a beautiful tree and Stuart and Angela Fleming somehow got it up there. The lights were switched on for Lights in the Dark and, by joyful coincidence, their mother Betty's 100th birthday. Thank you team and Happy Christmas everyone!

Liz Bott

Ilmington Parish Council News

PLAYGROUND NEWS: Ilmington Parish Council has appointed ESP Play to provide new equipment in Grace's Playground. There will be a new basket swing, junior swings and a new slide on the mound. Separately, the plastic tube slide will be repaired. We anticipate this work will take place in January and February.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED! We are looking for volunteers to help with weekly playground inspections to ensure the playground remains a safe place for children to play. No special expertise is required, just common sense and 20 minutes of free time during the week. Training will be provided. Please get in touch if you can help.

COUNCILLOR VACANCY: Are you passionate about Ilmington?

There is still one vacant seat on the parish council. Candidates are reminded that, to be eligible for co-option onto the Parish Council they must satisfy the standard election qualification criteria, and live or work in the parish or within three miles of its boundary.

CONTACT: For the latest news visit www.ilmington-pc.gov.uk or see the noticeboards on Upper or Lower Green. To contact the clerk, email clerk@ilmington-pc.gov.uk or call 01451 885189.

Pauline Rigby, Clerk to Ilmington Parish Council

Ilmington C of E Primary School

Our Infant nativity in the church was once again a super time for all the children but also the parents, relatives and friends who were able to join us. The children sang beautifully and told the nativity story superbly with some lovely acting and narration. Our PTA kindly provided refreshments for the adults, much needed on the two chilly afternoons. There were some very creative Christmas jumpers on display at our Christmas lunch this year where the children enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner provided by our cooks Richard and Lou who work hard to provide lovely lunches all year. We finished the term with our wonderful annual carol service where the children sang beautifully accompanied by Mr Kemp who supports us so well each week with our music in school. In the first week back after Christmas- ton theatre again to see Cinderella.

Paul Crouch, Headteacher

Ilmington Soft Plastic Recycling Scheme

Your 2020 Committee has now had it confirmed that the District Council will be able to recycle soft plastics at their revolutionary new plant as of next year. This will mean your blue bin collection will include soft plastics. However, as yet, the plant is still getting up and running and no decision has been made on exactly what soft plastic items this will include.

In light of this, we will be continuing our six-bin collection in Phase One of the village, but holding back on Phase Two until further notice. To date we have taken 200 binloads for recycling, a great achievement, so thank you for your support in curtailing our community's carbon footprint!

Wendy Lewis Edwards, Ilmington 20:20

Sweet Charity at Ilmington Show

The Show Committee are delighted to report that the 2023 Show raised over £9000 to distribute to local organisations and to the chosen charities which particularly benefit the Ilmington Community. Local groups which received donations are the Stream Water Testing group (Ilmington 20:20), Ilmington Tennis Club and Ilmington Village Hall, the Traditional Ilmington Morris Dancers, the Wednesday Club, the Wildlife Group, (Ilmington 20:20), St Mary's Church, Ilmington Multi-Sports Facility and Tennis Club, Ilmington School, Ilmington Defibrillator Group, Ilmington Kurling Group, Ilmington Bowls Club and Ilmington Playing Fields. The following national charities were supported with donations: the Shakespeare Hospice, the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance, Myton Hospice and Shipston Home Nursing. Thanks to our sponsors and to everyone who helped to make this possible.

Susan Brock, Show Committee Secretary

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Wendy Lewis Edwards, Appeal coordinator

Ilmington Defibrillator Training

On 10th and 24th February 2024 from 10.00-12.00 (Venue to be announced) Stuart Eastbury from Shipston's Defibrillator Group is kindly giving residents of Ilmington **a two hour training session on how to use the Defibrillator and how to do basic Resuscitation (C.P.R).**

In case you don't know: Ilmington has four readily available Defibrilators on the side of the Village Hall, entrance to the Village School, by the Playing Field Toilets, and in the Howard Arms pub. ANYONE CAN use the Defib - and IT MIGHT WELL SAVE A LIFE.

If you are interested in learning this skill please phone Brian Lighthill on 01608 682048 by February 4th and leave a message with your name and phone number - Brian will get back to you with details of the venue.

Mark Robinson

Ilmington Screen-on-the-Green

Our 2024 programme begins on Friday 26 January with **The Great Escaper**, a heartwarming drama starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson in her final screen role. Inspired by a true story, and directed by Oliver Parker, it follows 48 hours in the life of 89-year-old Royal Navy veteran Bernard Jordan as he disappears from his care home in Sussex and heads to Normandy to honour his fallen comrades at commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Rated 12A. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start at Ilmington Village Hall. Tickets from the Village Shop, although some are available on the door. Licensed bar and raffle. **Mulled wine will be on sale with a free hot sausage roll.**

Lis Ribbans, Ilmington Cinema Group

Ilmington Village Hall

The village hall is decorated for Christmas until 6 January and still available for those last minute celebration bookings. Our regular wellbeing activities include '**indoor kurling**' on Thursdays at 2:30pm and '**tai chi**' on Fridays at 11:15am except for the last Friday of the month when it starts at 1:00pm. We have been fortunate to obtain grants for '**pickle ball**', the new game which is rapidly gaining popularity across the UK. Watch this space for further announcements. For those thinking ahead we have the ever popular **Quiz Night** planned for Saturday 24 February and a top class folk evening with **Wilderness Yet** on Saturday 23 March. Village Hall bookings can be made through the website www.ilmington-villagehall.com.

Bryan Clifford, Chair, Village Hall Committee

Ilmington Wednesday Club: **Next Meeting 10th January at 2pm.**

We had a very busy December with the Panto and the Christmas lunch, both were thoroughly enjoyed. We thank the Ilmington Show Committee for giving us the money to hire the coach for the pantomime. Thanks must also go to the Lower Quinton choir and to Nick Nickerson who delighted us all with their singing at the Christmas party. We always have a jolly time!

This year starts with a 'not to miss' demonstration by an Emmet practitioner who uses pressure points in the body to trigger a relaxed response and reduce pain.

I am sad to say that Bob Johnson passed away two weeks ago. He was in a Care Home near his daughter in Chipping Norton. People will remember Bob as the landlord of the Red Lion and as the man who bravely walked the village twice a day in his fight against Parkinson's. He will be missed. Details of funeral arrangements will be posted when known.

January is a popular month for birthdays. The young Bryan Clifford heads the list with his birthday on 4th, Christine Wright follows on 8th, Mary Waterman on 16th, and finally David Shell on 22nd. Happy birthday to you all! Let's hope that 2024 is a peaceful, healthy one for us all. Happy New Year everyone!

Carole Clifford, Chair

PRESTON-ON-STOUR

Poppy Appeal Result 2023: Preston-on-Stour and Whitchurch

Many thanks to everyone for their tremendous generosity in supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal 2023. The total amount raised for the local area, covering Alderminster, Wimpstone, Crimscote, Preston and Atherstone-on-Stour, was £1,849.10 - a terrific effort, especially in light of the more difficult economic circumstances, and an increase compared with last year. Altogether a fantastic achievement.

Sally Keegan, Poppy Appeal Organiser

Preston-on-Stour Village Hall

Film Nights: We are showing our first film of 2024, 'A Haunting in Venice', on Friday 26th January.

The Preston Quiz - Saturday 3rd February : Our quizmaster, Mick Jennings has once again started creating the notoriously popular quiz. Tables of four people maximum, bring your own drinks and the village hall committee will provide a plate of snacks all for £5 per person. To book your table contact Mick, either by phone on 01789 450797 or email mickandsally76@gmail.com.

Margaret Brocklehurst

STRETTON-ON-FOSSE

Apologies for omitting the Stretton section in the December issue, especially announcements about Christmas events. Mea culpa! Ed.

Soup Lunches

We will resume our fortnightly soups on January 10th. Hope to see you there.

Geri Hunting

Stretton on Fosse Greenfingers Garden Club

Our next meeting is on Sunday 14th January 2024 in Stretton on Fosse Village Hall at 6.30 pm, where we will be having a Cheese and Bring Your Own Wine (or drink of choice!) evening. We will also welcome Paul Williams (who has gardened at Bourton Hill and Whichford gardens, amongst others) to give us a talk about all things gardening! We have lots of events planned for 2024 and you don't have to be a member to come along to our social event. However, members do get perks, so it's well worth the £10 each to join our friendly club! Any questions contact Marianne Robinson 07929 629745 or email mariannerobinson@btinternet.com. Alternatively, look at the Stretton on Fosse website – Activities.
Marianne Robinson

TREDINGTON with DARLINGSCOTT

Tredington & Blackwell WI

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th January. We begin at 1pm with lunch, then hear from our speaker, Julie Mitchell, on the subject of 'From IT to Tai Chi and Beyond'. All women are welcome – if you'd like to attend (Guests £5), please contact Gill (for catering purposes) by text to 07789 810877, or email secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk
Gill Goodlad, Secretary

Welcome to Tredington Booklet

The WI maintains a directory of local activities and services. It can be downloaded at <https://tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk/welcome-to-tredington>. If you would like your group or activity to be included, please contact Gill at secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk.
Gill Goodlad, Secretary

WI Community Film Night

Our next film, in the WI Hall, CV36 4NP, will be on Friday 2nd February 2024. This British film (2003) tells the heart-warming story of a man's unplanned journey. It is certificate 12A. The bar opens at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. We include a short interval when the bar and ice creams are available. There will be an opportunity to suggest films for the coming year, and we will be collecting subscriptions of £15 for those who wish to pay annually. Others are invited to make a voluntary donation. For details of the film, contact Gill at treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk, or text 07789 810877.
Gill Goodlad, Treasurer

Craft & Chatter/Chatter & Craft

The next Craft & Chatter (emphasis on craft) is in the WI Hall on Thursday 4th January. The next Chatter & Craft (emphasis on socializing) is in the same venue on Monday 15th January. Each meeting starts at 2pm, with a charge of just £1 towards tea or coffee and cake. For details contact Vanessa on 07818 599353 or email vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk
Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Tredington & District Garden Club

Members and their guests will have their January lunch on 18th January. Our next meeting is on Thursday 15th February at 7pm for 7.30pm in the WI Hall – more details in the February magazine. If you'd like to know more about the club see www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com
Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Qigong, Breathwork, & Meditation Class: WI Hall Tredington

Fridays 9.30am-10.30am: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th January. **NEW for 2024 – Tuesdays 6.15pm-7.15pm: 9th, 16, 23rd January (no class 30th January). Explore ancient Chinese and Indian techniques that rejuvenate mind, body, and spirit. Join me for an experience that blends gentle movements, tranquil breathing, and mindful meditation. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned practitioner, Qigong (pronounced Chee-Gung) has been shown to reduce stress, enhance energy levels, and improve overall health, flexibility, and well-being. Classes are open to all levels of experience, and to all physical abilities, as exercises may be done standing or seated. Beginners welcome! Visit <https://breath-therapy.uk/events/> to secure your place or email alissa@breath-therapy.uk for more information. Walk-ins welcome if space. £7pp.
Alissa Powell, Breath Therapist

WHITCHURCH

St Mary's Church

Janus, the Roman god who gives us the name for 'January', presided over new beginnings, gates, doorways -- and endings. He was pictured with two faces, looking in opposite directions. It's apt, then, that in January, as the church celebrates the Feast of the Epiphany (from the Greek, meaning 'a manifestation', frequently seen as a feast of lights) the secular calendar looks backwards and forwards. At St Mary's, looking backwards, we'd like to thank all in the parish who have done so much over the past year to keep our church beautiful for worship and welcoming to visitors: arranging flowers, polishing brasses, tending the churchyard, playing the harmonium, organising and running the summer fete, singing and dancing. And looking forward, in advance, we thank you for your continued support as we arrive in a new year when we begin the restoration of our stained glass. And we ask: what can our church do for you? HAPPY NEW YEAR, ALL!

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

We charge £6 for editorial articles about events outside the five parishes to cover our costs. Contact the Editor s.brock9@btinternet.com

A Date for your 2024 Diary! A Spring Breakfast for Women will be held at the Halford Bridge Inn, on Saturday 16th March, 2024

A delicious continental breakfast for £9 is served from 9.15am. To reserve a place please contact Liz Harvey at

ma_harvey@hotmail.com

Revd Charmaine Host will be speaking: **PURPLE INTO GOLD – A journey of hope and healing:** I left school at the age of 16 with barely four GCEs. I had lost my faith and had little sense of the path I should take in life. As I began a new life as an au pair girl in Switzerland, little did I know that I was destined to play a part in an important moment in history as 'one of the first, neither did I foresee that Paris, Nashville, art school and a therapist named John would play such integral parts in the direction I took.'

Liz Harvey

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STRETTON-ON-FOSSE

Village Hall

AVAILABLE TO HIRE ~ BOOKINGS TAKEN

To book, contact Sharon Harcourt, Booking Secretary
Email:- strettonvillagehall@strettononfosse.com
Telephone:- 01608 663865

We have put in place all the necessary measures to protect everyone using the hall.
A COVID-19 risk assessment is available to view: www.strettononfosse.com

**For a special occasion, regular event
or meeting, why not book:
ILMINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

Foxcote Hill, CV36 4LD

(licensed bar available)



Bookings Secretary: Nina Murchison
T: 01608 682527. E: ilmingtonvhall@gmail.com
www.ilmington-villagehall.com

Talton Mill Butchery

Now open every Wednesday 10-2 each week.
Fresh sausage and bacon and a selection
of fresh and frozen meat from the farm and locality
including our free range chicken.
CV37 8UG. Between Newbold and Alderminster.
taltonmillmeats@gmail.com



THE HOWARD ARMS ILMINGTON



BAR OPENING TIMES

MONDAY TO SATURDAY : 11AM – 11PM
SUNDAY 12PM – 10.30PM

FOOD SERVING TIMES

DAYTIME:

MONDAY TO SATURDAY : 12PM – 2.30PM

EVENING:

MONDAY TO THURSDAY : 6PM – 9PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY : 6PM – 9.30PM

SUNDAY & BANK HOLIDAYS

12PM – 7.30PM

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE CALL 01608 682226

OR

EMAIL: INFO@HOWARDARMS.COM

THE HOWARD ARMS, LOWER GREEN, ILMINGTON,
WARWICKSHIRE, CV36 4LT