

The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No 6 Sept. 2023



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THE DOWNS AND VALLEY CHURCHES SERVICE ROTA SEPTEMBER 2023

Sept 2023	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
3rd Trinity 13	11.00am Morning Communion (1662)	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	No service	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship
10th Trinity 14	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion (1662)		11.00am Holy Communion	
17th Trinity 15		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)
24th Trinity 16	4.00pm Evening Worship (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	11.00am Morning Worship		11.00am Holy Communion	

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 01608 682244 (landline)

Reader: Ros Wakefield
Reader Emeritus: Malcolm Davies

Churchwardens:

Tredington *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*
Darlingscott Doreen McCarroll
Ilmington Jane Downie
Preston-on-Stour Andrew Holman- West
Stretton-on-Fosse *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*
Whitchurch Carol Rutter

01608 682949 (landline)
01608 682720 (landline) Helen Patrick
07712 193773 (mobile)

01789 450795 (landline) John Craner 01789 450200 (landline)

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

Richard Cooke, Rector, writes

Winning and Losing

What a Summer of sport it's been! As I write, the Women's World Cup has just ended (a game too far for England), and Katarina Johnson-Thompson has won the World Athletics Hep-tathlon title. Carlos Alcaraz beat Novak Djokovic won his first Wimbledon Men's title, and Ons Jabeur lost the Ladies' singles final for the second year in a row to Maria Vondrousova. Manchester City won the Champions and Premier Leagues, though a thrilling young Arsenal side made a strong challenge for the latter. And the Ashes, concentrated into only 6 weeks, ended up 2-2, with only the rain thwarting Ben Stokes's England in Manchester. His team took their cue from Zak Crawley's first-ball drive for four on the opening day of the series and played in perhaps the most exciting cricket I've seen since 1981...I could go on!

The thing is, that much of the best sport this Summer has not ultimately led to winning. In the Ashes and the Women's World Cup, for example, the teams haven't triumphed. But by the way they have played they have lit up the Summer. On the eve of the Champions League Quarter Final in April, Pep Guardiola reflected that, though as both a player and a manager he's won more trophies than most of us can even imagine, let alone remember, even the greatest in sport lose more often than they win. 'If I lose, I lose' he said, 'I'm not perfect.' Ben Stokes' way of playing cricket is built around not being afraid to lose – and sometimes his team fall flat on their faces. What we've seen this Summer is, perhaps, that winning is not the only criterion of success in sport, and there's something in this thought that provides a wider perspective reflection on life.

If life is seen as a game, then ultimately we all lose in death. But if winning is not the only criterion of success then perhaps there is hope that how we live – how we play the game of life – may matter more. Someone once wrote that 'There is a way of winning by losing. A way of victory in defeat'. It's a curious thought, but it's exemplified in the Christian way, and especially in the Cross of Christ, the symbol of the Church. This was a defeat – no question – but a way of losing through love that ultimately won.

So this great Summer of sport, and the way that sport has been played, might just have some deeper resonances for us. What does success look like, what's the significance of our lives, and does it matter quite so much whether we win or lose after all?

Harvest Festivals begin at the end of September

24 Sept	Ilmington	6.00pm
1 Oct	Tredington	11.00am
	Whitchurch	4.00pm
	Preston-on-Stour	6.00pm
8 Oct	Darlingscott	11.00am
	Stretton-on-Fosse	4.00pm

Church Bank Account Details

Parish	A/c name	Sort Code	A/c number
St George's <u>Darlingscott</u>	<u>Darlingscott Church</u>	40-41-26	20277045
St Mary's <u>Ilmington</u>	<u>Ilmington PCC</u>	30-98-26	01704398
St Mary's <u>Preston-on-Stour</u>	<u>Preston-on-Stour PCC</u>	30-98-26	00209849
St Peter's <u>Stretton-on-Fosse</u>	<u>Stretton-on-Fosse PCC</u>	30-98-26	01704509
St Gregory's <u>Tredington</u>	<u>Tredington PCC</u>	40-41-26	80814687
St Mary's <u>Whitchurch</u>	<u>Whitchurch PCC</u>	40-43-19	80854433

From the Registers

Funerals/Interments of Ashes

At Tredington, 13 August, Mary Holtham, aged 75
(interment of ashes)

At Ilmington, 15 August, Russell Wisdom, of Ilmington
(interment of ashes following funeral in December 2022)

At Preston-on-Stour, 21 August, David Hall, aged 79, of
Atherstone-n-Stour

At Tredington, 24 August, John Scholes, aged 92, of
Tredington

Editor's Note

The deadline for copy for the October issue is 16 September 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. This month's cover is an image by Liz Garton of Ilmington. If you would like to submit an image yourself—a painting, sketch, photograph - email it to Susan Brock as a jpg or PDF file (portrait layout). Submissions from readers of any age very welcome.

Nature Notes September 2023

Michaelmas Daisies provide our hoverflies, bees and butterflies with vital nectar before the winter sets in. Blooming from around August to November peaking at around 29th September. Michaelmas occurred at this time to honour the Archangel Michael hence the name Michaelmas daisies. The old rhyme, '*The Michaelmas daisy, among dead weeds, Blooms for St Michael's valorous deeds. And seems the last of flowers that stood, Till the feast of St Simon and St Jude.*' The latter was celebrated on 28 October, when many are still in flower. Previously known as asters, which is the Ancient Greek word for star, because the petals give them a starry look, it is no longer the correct classification for them!! However, the new names in my view are not very user friendly!! So, whatever you choose to call them enjoy their delicate flowers knowing that you are doing our wildlife some good!

Gill

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Parish Council News

Councillor Vacancy: Three more councillors were elected to Ilmington Parish Council in June bringing the total to five. However, there is still one vacant seat remaining. If you are interested in serving as a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk. Being a councillor is a rewarding role, giving you the opportunity to make worthwhile improvements in the village. 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. The Parish Council hopes to appoint a new councillor at its meeting on Thursday 28 September.

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

Pauline Rigby, Clerk to Ilmington Parish Council

Ilmington Bowls Club

Everyone is welcome to play bowls free of charge every Wednesday 2-3pm. No experience necessary. Just bring flat-soled shoes e.g. trainers.

Gregg Woodall.

Ilmington Village Hall

Wellbeing Events: Zumba Gold, every Tuesday at 2:45pm; Indoor Curling, every Thursday at 2:30pm: and, Tai Chi every Friday at 11:15am except the last Friday of the month when it

is at 1:00pm.

Folk Concert by Janice Burns and Jon Doran - 8 September at 7:00pm tickets from £12 at the Community Shop and Eventbrite. This is a rare opportunity to enjoy listening to one of the UK's top folk duos.

Pink Floyd Rock Concert - 21 October. This popular local band has been playing to sell out audiences in village halls throughout Warwickshire. Definitely one not to miss for Pink Floyd fans.

Bryan Clifford, Chair

Ilmington Shop and Café

We are making plans for the next couple of months and are already thinking of the Big C (Christmas) (Sorry, not sorry!). But for now we have some dates for your diaries.

Saturday 9th September from 12noon. Our late summer barbecue provided by Robbie Walker Butcher. No tickets required, just turn up.

Sunday 1st October 10.30. Sunday Big Breakfast. Come and join us in the cafe for a long table big breakfast. For £10 your ticket includes a full English Breakfast with orange juice and tea or coffee.

We also have our regular community groups.

Book Club – 1st Tuesday of every month at 2pm.

Knit & Natter – 4th Wednesday of every month at 2pm.

Games club – 2nd Wednesday of every month at 2pm.

Parent & Baby Group – every Wednesday at 10am. Parents, grandparents or carers of babies all welcome for coffee, cake and good company.

Call us on 01608 682838 for more information.

Michele Hall, Manager

Wednesday Club Next Meeting 13th September

Many thanks to Martin Taylor for allowing us to use the music room in the Manor for a very enjoyable musical afternoon and to Nick Nickerson who provided the lovely infectious music.

Hope to see you again, Nick.

Next meeting will be at the Village Hall at 2pm. Unfortunately our original presenter is unable to speak but will give a talk at the November meeting. Instead, we are very lucky to have Katie Beswick, a medical herbalist who has a little shop in Shipston. She has agreed to come along and show us what is growing in the hedgerows, how to identify them and how it can help us medically and our environment. Our birthdays for September, start with Marilyn Figgitt on the 24th, Colin Waterman, on the 27th, Mary Brain on the 28th and last, but not least, please remember we would love to see you at the Ilmington

least, Carol Hawkins on the 29th. Happy birthday everyone!
Please remember we would love to see you at the Ilmington
Show, our one and only major fundraiser.

Carole Clifford, Chair

Ilmington Screen-on-the-Green: Chevalier (12A)

On Friday 29 September we return from the summer break with *Chevalier*, a sumptuous 18th-century drama based on the true story of Joseph Bologne, aka Chevalier de Saint-Georges, the illegitimate son of a Senegalese slave and a French plantation owner, who scales the heights of French society as a swashbuckling violinist, composer, and rival to Mozart, before embarking on an ill-fated love affair. Kelvin Harrison Jr stars in the title role. 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.

*** Did you know that Ilmington Cinema Group supports local good causes through a number of small donations from its annual operating surpluses? If you're an Ilmington group with a specific project or need that could benefit from a contribution of £50 or £100, please do email chairman Graham Downie and treasurer David Shell

at graham.downie@gmail.com with details by 30 September so we can consider your submission at our next meeting.

Lis Ribbans

PRESTON-ON-STOUR

Preston Village Hall

Film Nights: We are having a break for August and September due to holiday absences but hope to be back in our regular last Friday of the month slot in October.

Harvest Supper: The next village hall event will be the Harvest Supper held in October. We haven't fixed a date yet so watch this space and book your tickets as soon as you can.

Margaret Brocklehurst

STRETTON-ON-FOSSE

Summer Cream Teas at the Village Hall

Final cream tea get-together on Sunday September 17th at 3.30pm. Come and enjoy scones, cake and company at the hall. Fortnightly soup lunches will resume in October Date to be confirmed so watch this space!

Dance for Joy!

Come and experience a joyful circle dance evening with music from around the world. No previous dance experience required and all dances will be taught. **Free** introductory session at the Village Hall, Stretton on Fosse September 7th 7 - 8.30pm though a small donation will be welcome to cover the cost of the hall. Contact Geri Hunting 07968 338848 or geri@horsejoy.com for more information.

Geri Hunting

TREDINGTON with DARLINGSCOTT

St George Church Darlingscott

We are celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the opening of St George Church Darlingscott, on Saturday October 7th, 6.45pm Meet and Greet, also refreshments, followed at 7.15pm by Gospel Bells. All welcome. If you are interested please give me a ring on 01608682949. It would be helpful to know the numbers for the catering. Look forward to seeing you. Our Harvest service is on the following day at 11am.

Doreen McCarroll, Churchwarden

Harvest Festival Sunday 1 October at St. Gregory's Tredington

Come and join us at 12.30 for a harvest lunch with hot food after the Harvest Festival Service. This is open to everyone - new residents especially welcome. Bring your own alcohol, soft drinks provided. Come to the service at 11.00 a.m. or come along at 12.30. Sign the list just inside the church, so we know numbers, and help if you can. As a result of the summer lunch we sent £200 to Cancer Research in memory of village friends we have lost in the past year. Profits from the Harvest Lunch will also go to charity.

Our Christmas Lunch will be in the WI Hall so numbers will be limited. More details, date etc. later - watch this space.

Enquiries Marilyn Payne 666206, Sarah Taylor 662782, Jenny Plenderleith 664278

Jenny Plenderleith

Tredington and District Garden Club

We start our Autumn programme on Thursday 21st September with an illustrated talk by garden designer Lucy Hartley on Adapting to Climate Change in the Garden. The meeting will be at 7.30pm in the WI Hall; doors open at 7pm with the bar available until 7.30pm. We will have a Bring & Share table for plants and garden equipment and

close with light refreshments. New members and guests are welcome. For more information, see our website: www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com
Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Tredington and Blackwell WI

Our next WI Meeting on Thursday 14th September 2023, 7.00pm in Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP is OPEN TO ALL. The speaker is Mike McCarthy, Shipston Area Flood Action Group, on *Local Flood Defences*. The WI meeting on Thursday 12th October 2023 at **1.00pm** is another OPEN MEETING: Ken Kelly: *Mercury 13 – The Women the Space Race tried to forget*. **Please note new start time.**

Keep the date: Community Fish and Chip Supper in the WI Hall, Friday 20th October 2023, 6.30pm. More details next month.

If you would like to attend any of our WI meetings, please contact the WI Secretary. For further details, email: secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or telephone 01608 682102. Visitors are always welcome at our friendly and thriving WI. For further information about our WI or to hire Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, please see our website: <https://tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk> and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tredingtonandblackwellwi>

'Welcome to Tredington' Booklet

For many years, Tredington and Blackwell WI has produced and maintained a '*Welcome to Tredington*' booklet, which provides details of the activities that take place in Tredington and the local area, with names of those to contact should you wish to know more or join in. It also provides some practical information in relation to other services and facilities in the area which you may need. As it is a 'live' document, it is regularly updated and is available for you to view, download and print from: <https://tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk/welcome-to-tredington/>
We hope you find the booklet informative and that it will

WI Community Film Night

Our next film screening in the Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP will be on Friday 13th October 2023. Bar opens at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. It is a recent film, described as a warm-hearted adventure. It does contain some strong language. (Cert. 15, 2022), running time 94 minutes, plus

interval with bar and ice creams). Booking is now open. For more details of this, and other forthcoming films, to join the email list or to book places, please contact Gill by email: treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or text: 07789 810877.

Craft and Chatter

Our next two Craft and Chatter meetings will be on Thursday 7th September 2023 and Thursday 7th September in the Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP, commencing at 2.00pm. EVERYONE is welcome – including non-crafters. There are opportunities to share tips and learn other crafts in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. Bring your own knitting, sewing or craft to work on whilst having a cup of tea, a piece of cake and a chat. For further details, please contact Vanessa on 07818 599353 or email

vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk

WI notices submitted by *Patricia Macpherson, Secretary Tredington and Blackwell WI*

Outside the Parishes

Stratford on Avon Pickleball Club

A new sport come to the area at Meon Vale Leisure Centre, Monday and Wednesday afternoons 2pm until 3:30pm. Pickleball is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and table tennis using a paddle and plastic ball with holes. It's a game that is appropriate for players of all ages and skill levels. Rules are simple, making it a great introductory sport. They're so similar to table tennis, it can be easy for practically anyone to learn how to play the game. Whether you're a beginner who just wants to learn a new sport for fun, or you're a seasoned player who craves the thrill of more competitive play, Pickleball has something for everyone. It also offers some great exercise for your balance, agility, and hand-eye coordination without putting excessive strains on your body. The new club starts w/c 25th September. So, if you're interested contact graeme.smith30@btinternet.com

Townsend Hall Shipston: AGM and Our Jazz is back in the swing!

The AGM was held in July and David Squires, the Chair of the trustees, reported on the year to 31st March 2023. Too much to report for a short news bulletin, so if you're interested head

over to www.townsendhall.co.uk and check out the News. Otherwise, our Trad Jazz programme will be kicking off again on Friday 29th September when Ian Bateman presents "It's Trad Dad!". A stunning line up of musicians covering the music of Acker Bilk, Chris Barber, Terry Lightfoot, Kenny Ball, and many more! Tickets are £12.50, available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, where you can bag your own table and seating, or for general availability seating from Clarke Electrical Services in town. For more, take a look at our website, www.townsendhall.co.uk and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Haydn Ward, Townsend Hall Trustee

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St Mary's Church, Ilmington
Saturday 2 Sept at 7.15pm

Flora, Fauna, Fowl and Flood!

A concert by the Charpentier Consort
conducted by Ben Cahill-Nicholls

With music by English composers,
and the jazz cantata
Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo



**Free entry – retiring collection
All are welcome!**