

**THE SIX PARISHES
MAGAZINE**

March

**ILMINGTON
PRESTON-ON-STOUR
ATHERSTONE-ON-STOUR
STRETTON-ON-FOSSE - DITCHFORD
TREDINGTON-DARLINGS-COTT-WHITCHURCH**

No. 264

March 2022

THE HOWARD ARMS ILMINGTON



BAR OPENING TIMES

MONDAY TO SATURDAY : 11AM – 11PM
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New Beginnings

Each year Spring is a time of new beginnings, as the earth wakes after the sleep of Winter. First snowdrops, then primroses and daffodils herald new growth. The days get sunnier and warmer. This year, perhaps, we feel the sense of new beginnings even more intensely. As we seem to draw towards the end of the Pandemic much has changed, a good deal has been lost, and perhaps there are also some things we have rediscovered and can be thankful for, too.

For me, coming to join you as the new Rector of the parishes, I look forward to new beginnings in meeting people, getting to know the villages and hamlets, and moving into Ilmington Rectory in the second week of March. We also have two new grandchildren due to be born around that time too: more new beginnings!

Our move will coincide with the church season of Lent. Lent actually simply means 'Spring', perhaps pointing us to the fact that it is not so much about giving things up as really being about new beginnings too. Lent prepares us for Easter, when we celebrate the greatest of new beginnings, God's resurrection of Jesus from the dead. I really pray that Easter 2022, on 17 April, will give us a great opportunity to celebrate together a new beginning, full of hope and joy.

Richard Cooke, Rector

A date for your diaries: Wednesday 2nd March. **Ash Wednesday service**, 7.30pm at Tredington Church.

Keep up to date with everything that is happening, including the current issue of the Six Parishes Magazine on the church website <https://fosseway6churches.weebly.com>. The Church of England continues to produce services that are free to hear on the telephone simply dial 0800 804 8044. It is easiest accessed through the Church of England "a church near you" site <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>, where each church has its own page. If there is anything you would like put up on the site do email it directly to revfletcher24@gmail.com. Have a look! It is regularly updated in these changing times. There are lots of useful links to see!

From the Registers

Funerals

18th January Annie Christine Green Whitchurch

1st February John Angus Chambers Ilmington

Nature Notes March 2022

Professor Brian Cox fronted a TV programme called The Wonders of the Universe. When we stop to think about the universe its vastness, that there is no end to it, the awesome pictures we have access to from Hubble Space Telescope which changed our understanding of the universe it is a wonder, something amazing. We are mostly free of light pollution giving us on a clear night a glimpse of that amazing universe the stars, planets and moon. Psalm 8:3-4 "When I look at the sky which you (God) have made, at the moon and stars which you have set in their places what are human beings that you think of them; mere mortals that you care for them?" Something to think about? Have a look at: https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hubble/explore.

The recently launched James Webb Space Telescope can peer further into space. A local group might be for you <http://www.astro.org.uk/schedule/>

DARLINGSCOTT

If anyone would like to join the flower rota please give Doreen a ring on 01608 682949 or email doreenmccarroll@doreenmccarroll.plus.com. Normally you supply and arrange flowers for one month in the year. Would anyone like to arrange a window for the Easter Service, this could be done to suit yourself and avoid a lot of people in the church at the same time? Thank you.

WHITCHURCH

St Mary's Whitchurch: Notes from the small church in the field

In June we will celebrate 1000 + 1 years of worship in a church perhaps originally dedicated to 'St Candida' or 'St White', later called 'The church of our God and our Lady of Wytecherch', now 'St Mary's Whitchurch'. To extend our celebrations across the six parishes, we aim to publish snapshots of our history across this year's parish magazine. These mini-histories are taken from the detailed research that our local resident, Robert Howe, has compiled of both the civil and church parishes from archival sources, documents, maps, and printed books. In today's episode we say something of the origins of St Mary's.

The Domesday Book of 1086 – William the Conqueror's survey of all his post-conquest holdings made so that the Crown could collect English taxes – does not mention a church in the parish. But it does make reference to a resident priest. Written records apart, the parish was apparently inhabited long before the Normans arrived. Fragments of stonework carved in Anglo-Saxon design, including a stone slab with interlaced design now incorporated into the west wall of the church nave, indicate as much. A beautifully illuminated modern record displayed in the church doorway tells us that 'This Church was built to the Honour and Glory of Almighty God for the perpetual worship of His Holy Name during the reign of St Edward the Confessor A.D. 1020'. It names the first incumbent: William de la Plaunch.

We do not know who was responsible for the construction of the original church – or exactly when. All that remains in place of the original structure is part of the north wall of the nave and possibly an even smaller part of the south wall. This is mostly made of local stone, and today is easily recognisable by its distinctive herringbone pattern, the stones held in place by larger blocks at the ends. The different layers of herringbone suggest that construction took some time and may have involved different labour at work.

But as we will see in subsequent episodes, many hands have laboured over many changes to St Mary's across the centuries. If, as one architectural historian wrote, St Mary's 'nave is Norman and a puzzle', the rest of the church is no less of a structural enigma. Just wait to hear what we have to say about our stained glass windows. And our bell.

Remember, although services in St Mary's are suspended between Christmas and Easter (while we wait for the winter fields to dry out in the spring sunshine), the church remains open to visitors and for private prayer. Best access: leave your car on the verge and walk along the public footpath signposted from the corner of Park House. Dogs are welcome, but keep them on leads: our local ewes are lambing.

[this piece exceeds our normal word limit but Whitchurch rarely makes an appearance in the magazine. Ed.]

PRESTON

Preston-on-Stour Village Hall

Film Night: Friday 25th March we are showing 'Radioactive' which is a biographical drama starring Rosalind Pike as Marie Curie. We have new heating in the hall so you can now enjoy our films in comfort!

May Day: Monday 2nd May it may seem a long way away but we are hoping to have a slightly different style of May Day to celebrate our return after two years. Please keep this date free and there will be more news next month.

Preston Environmental Group (PEG) News and Hopes for 2022

Residents of Preston have recently been asked by the Parish Council to vote on PEG's low mow village green project. It was a close result with 19 in favour and 21 against. We have subsequently been asked to rethink the scheme. Disappointed but undeterred we are currently exploring new areas in which to continue our initiative to encourage greater biodiversity in the village. PEG is also committed to keeping a record of our plant, animal and insect life and sincerely hope that there will be many of you who will be willing and able to help us by filling in a short seasonal tick list. This will start in the spring and through the seasons. More news next month and from PEG members who will be involved in the distribution. For more information please contact Ron Hoe on 777668 E: ronhoe@me.com or Margaret Brocklehurst on 450710 E: prestonbrocks@gmail.com

TREDINGTON

Tredington and Newbold CofE School

At our Tredington site, we have a colourful new piece of artwork created by Jack Carliell and some of the pupils. The mural represents our school ethos, 'Creating a chance to shine every day.' We strive to relate our Collective Worship topics to how we live our daily lives in school but are keen to extend these attributes at home. Each week, there will be a discussion question posed on the school Facebook page for parents/carers to get involved with 'Tea Time Talk' and the theme will link to the school's half termly value. Our nursery is now taking bookings for any child who turns three between September 2022 and July 2023. Children can start as soon as they are three and can access 15 hours free funding the term after their third birthday. Please contact admin3214@welearn365.com to make a booking as spaces are limited.

Tredington and Blackwell WI

Thursday 10th March in the WI Hall Tredington, our speaker is Dr Alison Foster, who will be talking on " The Unexpected Role of Plants in Medicine". Alison will be on zoom which will be screened in the hall, and you are warmly invited to a soup/roll lunch beforehand. Our meeting will commence at 1.00pm and Alison will join us after lunch around 1.30pm. If you would like further details, please ring Trish 01789 740185.

Craft and Chatter

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 3rd March in the WI Hall, Tredington at 2.00pm. For further details please ring Trish 01789 740185.

Ladies' Evening: Thursday 3rd March at 7.00pm in the WI Hall

Postponed from January, this event is for busy women to unwind and discover more about essential oils and how to benefit from them. A mix of conversation, information and demonstrations by a Registered Nurse and certified therapist.

Admission is free and includes a glass of prosecco, nibbles, raffle ticket and a hot drink. Advance booking only, by email to gillgoodlad@hotmail.com or text 07789810877.

Tredington & District Garden Club
Thursday 17th March at 7.30pm in the WI Hall

This meeting will be our AGM, followed by a gardening quiz. We open the pre-meeting bar at 7.00pm, and will close with a raffle draw and light refreshments. See our website for more information www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com.

Tredington Quiz Night: Friday 18th March at 6.30pm in the WI Hall

Join us for a fun evening, starting with a **fish & chip supper**, followed by a quiz featuring a variety of topics. Teams of four will compete for prizes – come as a team, or join with others on the night. There will be a discounted bar and raffle tickets for sale. Price per person is £12.50: £5.00 non-refundable deposit at time of booking and balance payable on the night. Advance booking only, by email to gillgoodlad@hotmail.com or text 07789810877. Booking closes Tuesday 15th March at 8pm.

Tredington Film Club: Friday 1st April at 7.30pm in the WI Hall

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, our next film, is a comedy starring Ewan McGregor and Kristen Scott Thomas. Based on a novel, it is the story of Dr Alfred Jones, a fisheries scientist who finds himself reluctantly involved in a project to bring salmon fishing to the highlands of the Yemen. Bar open 7.00 – 7.30pm and during the interval, when the raffle will be drawn. Pre-booking is open now to members and to non-members from 14th March. Contact Gill on gillgoodlad@hotmail.com or text 07789810877 to book your seats.

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Show: Fabulous at 40: Monday 29th August 2022

Everyone knows that Ilmington Show (formerly the Ilmington Fete) traditionally takes place every year on the village playing fields on Mickleton Road on the afternoon of August Bank Holiday Monday. But for the last two years Covid has got in our way. 2022 marks 40 years of our summer show and we want to make it extra special for everyone. We'd love as many people as possible to get involved. We need willing hands to help on the day, but we'd also appreciate help with planning and organisation. Many hands will make the next Ilmington Show a showstopper to remember. Please contact Show Committee Chairman Alan Wright on 01608 682660, if you are interested.

Spring Flower Show: Save the Date

Ilmington Village Hall, Saturday 2 April 2022 2.00-4.00pm

Exhibits of bulbs, flowering shrubs, hellebores, primulas, house plants, flower arranging are welcome from residents and non-residents at Ilmington Horticultural Society's spring flower show- the first since 2019. There is no charge for entries which will be registered on the day and admission will be only £1. As well as the show there will be teas and a plant Bring and Buy so don't forget to sow extra seeds or make more cuttings than you need — they will all be useful swaps. A schedule will be available in the Community Shop and the Red Lion on 26 February. For more information contact Susan Brock T:01608 682409; E: S.brock9@btinternet.com.

Village Hall - Dates for your Diary and Cleaner Needed

We have two exciting events coming up. First, our ever popular **Quiz Night on Saturday 9 April** and second, a theatre night on **Saturday 14 May featuring Giles Shenton in 'Three Men in a Boat'**.

Entry for the quiz will be for teams of up to 6 people and there will be a light supper provided within the ticket price of £10. Lis Ribbans will be our quiz master once again and tickets will be available from the beginning of March at the Community Shop. Giles Shenton gave us an excellent performance of 'Old Herbaceous' back in October and we are delighted to be able to welcome him back for 'Three Men in a Boat'. Tickets will be £10 and available online and from the Community Shop from the beginning of April. More detail on both events to follow.

Finally, we have an immediate vacancy for cleaner to work approximately 3 hours per week. If you are interested or know somebody who may be interested, the contact person is Paul Bryan on 07711 121210.

Ilmington Community Shop and Café: Come on over to our place

Marketplace in the community café space launched in February, with appearances by The Pinwheel Patisserie and Eastwood Farm. Marketplace is planned for occasional Saturdays in March and throughout the year: come and meet our suppliers and sample their produce! NEW at weekends: We now offer Eastwood Farm's joints of meat every weekend, perfect for traditional roast dinners. We also stock organic sourdough loaves from Mark's Cotswold Bakery on a Saturday. And don't forget, you can order locally-grown Drinkwaters' vegetables for weekend collection: call 01608 682838.

If you are a member of our cooperative, please join us at 7pm on Thursday 24th March for the AGM. We'll be serving wine in Ilmington Village Hall, or you can Zoom if you'd rather. Now's the time to become a member: shares start at £10 and you get a stake in an amazing community-focussed business. Share forms are available in store, or at www.ilmingtonshop.co.uk.

The Coven

Well, ladies, I have optimistically booked us into the Howard Arms for lunch on Wednesday, March 16th. Let us hope that this will mark the start of a happy, healthy year for us. Please give me a call on 682 605 to book in. Fond greetings, Christine.

Screen on the Green March film: 'Spencer'

At Ilmington Village Hall on Friday, 25th March, we are showing a film drama set during a royal Christmas in Sandringham in 1991. Kristen Stewart plays Princess Diana and Poldark star, Jack Farthing, is Prince Charles. Doors open at 7 pm for 7.30pm start. Licensed bar and raffle. Tickets on sale on door or beforehand at Ilmington Village Shop.

Wednesday Club next meeting on Wednesday March 9th 2pm

The Wednesday Club held its first meeting in February after a break of two months. Besides having a lovely belated 'Christmas Lunch', we also celebrated the 90th birthdays of two of our members, Sheila Ribbans and Christine Warmington. A very happy birthday ladies!

Our March meeting will be seeing us celebrate two more 90th birthdays; those of Stephen Wright and Nadine Senft. And it doesn't stop there as there are three more special birthdays later in the year! Besides celebrating these birthdays, there will be a speaker who will be sharing her experiences of being a housekeeper in various homes over the years. That should be interesting! Just a reminder to all members that we will be collecting subscription money in March. Till then, stay safe!

Services for March 2022

	St George's, Darlingstcott	St Mary's, Ilmington	St Mary's, Preston- on-Stour	St Peter's, Stretton-on- Fosse	St Gregory's, Tredington	St Mary's, Whitchurch
6 th March		Holy Communion 11 am	Evensong 6 pm	Holy Communion 9am	Family Service 10.30am	
13 th March	Morning Prayer 11 am	Holy Communion 9.30 am	Holy Communion 9.30am	Family service 11am	Holy Communion 10.30am	
20 th March		Family Service 11 am		Evensong 6 pm	Morning Prayer 10.30 am	
27 th March	Morning Worship 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Morning Prayer 11 am	Holy Communion 9am	Holy Communion 10.30am	
3 rd April		Holy Communion 11 am	Evensong 6 pm	Holy Communion 9am	Family Service 10.30am	

Rector

Associate Minister

Revd Canon Richard Cooke 07952 544820
Revd Stephen Fletcher 07714171143

Richard.Cooke.ilmington@Outlook.com

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Doreen McCarroll 01608 682949

Jane Downie 01608 682720

Andrew Holman-West 07712193773

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Carol Rutter 01789 450795

Helen Patrick

second churchwarden post vacant

John Craner 01789 450200

Deadline for the April issue is **19 March**. Copy to Susan Brock s.brock9@btinternet.com, Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington CV36 4LA. T: 01608 682409. To advertise contact Susan Brock as above

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

Townsend Hall Shipston-on-Stour

We've been busy with maintenance to make the hall a great proposition whatever the size of the event. We have a number of areas available and it was great to see a party booked that made excellent use of our reception, smaller hall and kitchen / servery. Cotswold Events return with their "Elvis Experience" 5th March. Our jazz programme continues 18th March with "Richard Leach's Street Band" - tickets from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall> or from A. Clarke Electrical Services in town. Don't forget we're funded as a charity, so keep up your support through your bookings, event attendance and donations - numbers are still available in our "150 club"; and please consider us when shopping through Amazon Smile or one of the many retailers supporting charities through easyfunding. **Winning numbers in the February 150 club draw are:** £15 No. 52; £10 No. 111; £5 No 53. Visit us at www.townsendhall.co.uk for more.

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society

Spring Concert 12 March at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford

An evening of lovely English music dedicated to Ralph Vaughan Williams, 150 years since his birth. The programme includes the short cantata '*The Hundredth Psalm*' heard at the Queen 1953 coronation, '*Serenade to Music*' from 1938 with Shakespeare text and '*Dona Nobis Pacem*' the 1936 impassioned plea for peace and music by Elgar and Finzi. Music Director, Oliver Neal Parker, conducts the Choir, The Regency Sinfonia and professional soloists. Tickets £15 (adults) or £8 (students) from Choir members, www.stratfordchoral.org.uk, or on the door on the night if available.

Women at the White Hart

There will be a Spring Breakfast at the White Hart Inn at Newbold on Saturday 19th March. Sue Robinson, from Shipston will be speaking and sharing a Christian message with a Spring theme. There will be a warm welcome to join us on this friendly and informal morning, to arrive at 9.00am for 9.15am start - 10.30 am Breakfasts are £8 and to reserve a place please contact Liz Harvey: ma_harvey@hotmail.com or 07914



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2. Set up a small regular payment to the Magazine to help with printing costs.

3. Advertise in Ilmington Circulation Shop Window and donate some of the income from sales to the magazine. Send your ad to shopwindow@ilmington.org.uk with your name, phone number and/or email address.

For more information contact the Editor

E: s.brock9@btinternet.com or

T: 01608 682409

Did you know that you can see current and back issues of the Six Parishes Magazine online at [www.ilmington2020vision.co.uk/parish magazine](http://www.ilmington2020vision.co.uk/parish%20magazine) ?

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