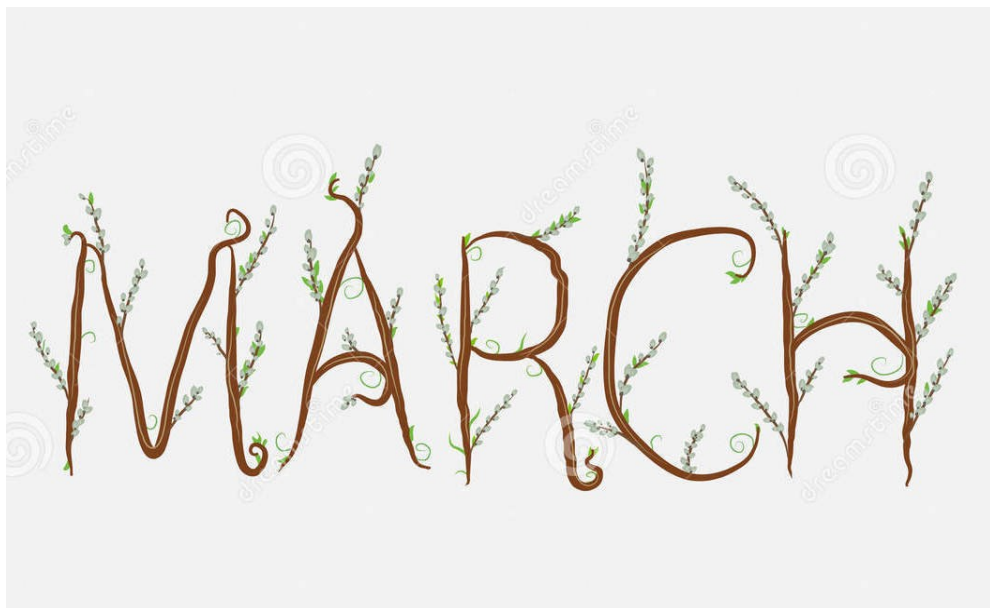


THE SIX PARISHES MAGAZINE



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

No. 277

March 2023

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Mothering Sunday

Richard Cooke, Rector, writes:

Mothering Sunday is always the fourth Sunday in Lent, often known as 'Refreshment Sunday' when, just for a day, the Lenten Fast could be broken. It had the air of a holiday about it, so it was when families could get together and became a good opportunity to say thanks to Mothers, especially by going to church with them.

For us as a family it will be a strange day this year – Dylan, our 3½ year old grandson, died in late January. He was diagnosed with a genetic condition called Sandhoff disease when he was about 18 months old – so incredibly rare that he was the 33rd known live case in the world and one of only two currently in the UK. From about the age of 6 months he had lost functions rather than gained them, as his brain gradually ceased to send messages to the rest of his body. I'm very grateful to all those in the parishes who have helped and supported us over recent months as we have struggled with the situation.

Just before Christmas we had a traumatic three weeks where Dylan was very ill and was not expected to live. Yet, remarkably, he recovered from the that crisis, and someone said to me: 'Do you think it is love that is keeping him alive?' In a practical sense, of course, it was true: without the devotion to Dylan's care that his Mum and Dad showed, his life would have ended earlier. But it was perhaps true in a deeper sense too, that their love sustained life far beyond what we might have expected. Though his awareness was very limited towards the end, I am sure that Dylan knew how loved he was, and still is.

You won't be surprised to know that I don't have an answer to 'Why do such things happen?' But I do know that through a very hard couple of years, I have had a deep sense that God has been in this with us, sharing the pain and suffering, giving strength and courage when we have needed it. Love, both given and received, is often costly, and the story of Jesus reflects that. On the cross, human pain strikes deep into the heart of God, and it helps to know that we are not alone.

I took Dylan's funeral on 8th February, and we came out of the chapel into a bright Spring morning – the same chapel where I had taken my Mother's funeral over 30 years ago. For me there was a sense of God's love surrounding us, as our Mother's love, the first experience of human love, surrounds us. I hope that that sense too can be part of our Mothering Sunday celebrations this year.

Mothering Sunday Services

St Mary's Whitchurch reopens for worship on Mothering Sunday, 19 March, at 4.00pm and all are welcome to come to the Special Service with refreshments to follow that afternoon. St Mary's is not always easy to find, but is on the road between Wimpstone and Crimscote, behind some trees and close to the river! Do come and join us if you can do so! There will also be Mothering Sunday services at Stretton-on-Fosse (9.30am), Tredington (10.30am) and Ilmington (11am).

From the Registers

Weddings

Amy Isobel Gillian Hargreaves and Harry John Foxall, at Ilmington, 25 February.

Funerals

Brian Francis Richard Caswell at Stretton³-on-Fosse, aged 84, 3 February.

Nature Notes March 2023

The sky is a beautiful ever changing glorious picture to view every day. Different cloud shapes/forms, the amazing azure blue and spectacular sunsets. It is a common misconception that the sky is blue because it reflects the blue of our seas and oceans. Sunlight reaches Earth's atmosphere and is scattered in all directions by all the gases and particles in the air. Blue light is scattered more than the other colours because it travels as shorter, smaller waves. This is why we see a blue sky. As the sun gets lower in the sky, its light is passing through more of the atmosphere to reach us. Even more of the blue light is scattered, allowing the reds and yellows to pass straight through to our eyes. How wonderful it all is. Lou Fellingham's song says 'Looking in the sky, Whoever could deny Your Glory, Gazing into space, How small the human race appears, Seeing You in all Your Majesty, I wonder how it could be that You delight in me (us)'. Gill

The New Look: Calling All Artists

March sees the last of the The Six Parishes Magazine after 23 years and 277 issues. An important element of the new look will be a full-colour cover where we plan to showcase the work of local artists of all ages —drawings, paintings, photographs. We would like the cover to reflect the seasons and to be colourful. The work should be rectangular so that it will fit the cover —think A4. Send me a digital copy of your work, a jpg would be best, at s.brock9@btinternet.com with details of your name and let me know if you are happy for your name to be published with the picture. We can't guarantee to fit everyone in but we shall let you know whether you have been chosen or not. To be considered for the April issue your work should reach me by Sunday 12 March.

Susan Brock, Editor

DARLINGS SCOTT

St George's Church

I am hoping that we can find some new people who would be interested in Helping with the Flower Rota at the Church, Easter, Harvest Festival and Christmas we normally come together as a community to decorate the church, but there are some months we need help with, normally whoever agrees to supply and arrange the flowers will carry this task out for a month, if anyone is interested and would like to join us please give Doreen a ring on 01608682949 and we can discuss this. Thank you in advance.

Doreen McCarroll

TREDINGTON

Tredington & District Garden Club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th March, when we will be holding our Annual General Meeting, including membership subscriptions and our programme for 2023-24. There will not be a speaker on this occasion, instead there will be a garden quiz. The bar opens at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. The evening will include a raffle and 'bring & share' table for your plants and gardening items, closing with light refreshments. For more information see the Club website www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com

Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Tredington Village Lunches

We will be holding a Village Lunch in the WI Hall at 12.30 on Sunday 12 March. This will consist of a choice of homemade soups followed by a jacket potato with your choice of either hot or cold filling. There will be more to follow and coffee or

tea. There is no set charge for this meal, but donations are welcome and all profits will be given to Haven House Hospice in memory of Rev Richard Cooke's little grandson Dylan who sadly died recently. Anyone who is not able to attend the lunch but would like to make a donation, please contact one of the people listed below. As it is in the hall, numbers will be restricted and if you would like to come, please sign the list which will be on the table just inside the church. Please also add anything you are able to bring or help with the lunch. This is open to everyone in the village and we would love to see new residents. Please bring your own bottle of wine if you wish, we will supply glasses, and soft drinks will be available on the day. To mark the coronation, there will also be a lunch on Sunday 7 May in the church where we can accommodate more people. More details about that later. Enquiries Marilyn Payne 666206, Jenny Plenderleith 664278, Sarah Taylor 662782,

Jenny Plenderleith

Tredington and Blackwell WI

The next WI Meeting will take place on Thursday 9th March 2023 in the WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP commencing at 1pm with delicious soup and a roll. Dr Gillian Mara will be giving her inspirational talk *Surviving the Fall*. We are also looking forward to our meeting in the WI Hall on Thursday 13th April 2023, starting at **7pm** (Please note the change of time for our summer meetings) when Mildred Freeman be giving a presentation on Zoom - *A Talk on Gin*. If you would like to attend any of our WI meetings, please contact Patricia Macpherson, Secretary. For further details, please email: secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or telephone 01608 682102. Visitors are always welcome at our friendly WI. For further information, 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 be useful to new and existing residents alike. If there are any groups or societies that would like to be considered for inclusion in this booklet, please contact Patricia Macpherson, Secretary, telephone 01608 682102 or email secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk

WI Community Film Night

Our next film screening in the WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP will be on Friday 31st March 2023. Bar opens at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. It is a charming British comedy-drama with a stellar cast (Cert. 12, 2020, running time 95 minutes, plus interval with bar and ice creams). Booking is now open. For more details of our 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 2nd March 2023 and Thursday 6th April 2023 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. Our latest project is knitting squares for shawls/blankets to be sent to a Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. For further details, please contact Vanessa on 07818 599353 or email vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk.

Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper

Our popular Community Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper will be held in the Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP on Friday 24th March 2023 at 6.30pm. A bar will be available. Teams of 4 or come on your own and join a team. Tickets are £12.50 per person (including supper from the Mermaid Fish Bar). A £5 deposit to be paid at time of booking. Numbers are restricted, so please book early. For further information and to book, please contact Gill Goodlad, Treasurer, by email: treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or telephone/text: 07789 810877
Patricia Macpherson, Secretary, Tredington and Blackwell WI

WHITCHURCH

Whitchurch St. Mary's

We expect our church to reopen on Mothering Sunday, March 20. Until then, while regular services are suspended, St Mary's is open for meditation and prayer. Please use the public footpath from the corner of Park House to the church. Dogs are welcome -- but keep them on a lead. Spring lambing has started.

Notes from a Small Church in a Field

Visitors will see, hanging on the north wall of the chancel, Royal Arms. From the time of Henry VIII such Arms would have been displayed above chancel arches, displacing the medieval 'rood' or crucifix in an assertion of the post-Reformation. These Arms quarter ENGLAND & FRANCE (our rulers' claims to be also Kings of France was first made by Edward III); SCOTLAND (brought in by the Stuarts); and IRELAND (first introduced by James I). For decades they were thought to date from Hanoverian times. But when they were restored twenty years ago, a 'G' for 'George' was discovered to conceal a much older monograph, "X R", for XAROLVS REX'. Here, then, is an original Coat of Arms of the 'Martyr King', Charles I, which survived in our remote church throughout Commonwealth, an unusual and a rare survival.

Carol Rutter, churchwarden, derived from Peter Drinkwater

PRESTON-ON-STOUR

Preston-on-Stour Village Hall

Film Night: Friday 31st March 'Going in Style': Joe, Willie and Albert, three lifelong friends, plan to rob the bank that swindled them out of their pension money in order to provide for themselves and their loved ones. A light hearted comedy starring Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and Alan Arkin.

May Day: Monday May 1st: Once again we are looking forward to celebrating our traditional May Day with all the usual fun and games. We are looking for this year's May Queen and her two attendants, so if you would like to be our 2023 Queen and you are aged 8 on or before May this year, please contact Margaret on 01789 450710 or email prestonbrocks@gmail.com.

Margaret Brocklehurst

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Parish Council News

Change of Date: Owing to councillor availability, the next council meeting has been moved to Thurs 2nd March, 7:30pm at Ilmington Community Shop Café. A special meeting has been scheduled to review tender responses to refurbish the playground equipment, which will be held on Thurs 16th March 2023, also 7:30pm at the Café.

Local Elections & Voter ID: Local elections take place on Thursday 4th May. This is your chance to join the Parish Council as all six seats will be up for election. Please contact any Councillor or the Parish Clerk if you would like to find out about being a parish councillor. From the May elections, residents wishing to vote at a polling station will be required to show an accepted form of photo ID before they are issued with a ballot paper. This is a national change in legislation. Contact Stratford District Council for details. Postal voting is unchanged.

Dogs On Ilmington Playing Field: The Parish Council is pleased to announce improvements to the designated dog exercise area at Ilmington Playing Fields. New post and mesh fencing has been erected alongside the roadside boundary to deter our canine friends from escaping into the road. Villagers and visitors alike are welcome to use this area, located to the west of the tennis courts, i.e. the Mickleton end, to exercise their animals. A designated dog exercise area was created in response to concerns about dog fouling in places where children play. The public health risks of dog faeces left on the ground are well known. Dog walkers are cordially reminded to avoid taking their dogs onto the children's playground and football pitches. Dogs may be led on public footpaths or around the perimeter of the playing field to the designated dog exercise area. Please keep your dog on a lead until reaching the designated area and always pick up after your dog.

Contact Us: Have you seen Ilmington Parish Council's new website at www.ilmington-pc.gov.uk? Information is also published on the noticeboards on Upper/Lower Green.

Contact clerk@ilmington-pc.gov.uk or 01451 885189.

Pauline Rigby, Clerk to Ilmington Parish Council

Ilmington C of E Primary School

It seems only yesterday we were celebrating Christmas with the KS1 nativity and KS2's production of Peter Pan but already we are looking forward to Easter. We have been busy with our learning this term but we have also been taking part in floorball matches and developing our link with a school in Kenya. Last November, we started Worship Wednesdays where the whole school visit St Mary's on the first Wednesday of the month and are led by Rev Richard Cooke in our act of collective worship, along with any parents who wish to join us. In February we had our second service together. Unfortunately, Richard was unwell this month but we had a good time learning about this term's Christian value, perseverance. Our ever-active PTA have already initiated some events this term with a Break the Rules day and two discos raising much needed funds. Family Bingo coming soon!!*Paul Crouch, Headteacher*

Ilmington Village Hall Wellbeing Events

ZUMBA - Get fit to music with Zumba Gold, classes every Tuesday starting at 2:30pm.
KURLING - Fun, fitness and friendly competition every Thursday starting at 2:30pm.
TAI CHI - A more gentle but effective form of exercise, every Friday (except for the last Friday on the month) starting at 11:00am. Can be done standing or sitting. These events are free of charge by virtue of grant funding but voluntary contributions to heating costs are appreciated.

Bryan Clifford, Village Hall Committee Chair

The Coven

March 15 is the date, at half past twelve so don't be late for fish and chips upon your plate in the snug at the Howard Arms, can't wait!

Christine Wright

Ilmington Community Shop and Café: Come to our Amazing Gathering!

Tuesday 21st March is the date for our AGM (Amazing Gathering of Minds) and we need as many members as possible to attend please, so we can record a meaningful vote. There will be wine and refreshments in Ilmington Village Hall from 7pm and all members of our cooperative are eligible to attend. If you're not already a member, the membership window is open until 17th March, so please ask at the shop for a form. You can become a member and have your say from as little as £10.. Meanwhile, this is a great month to come out of hibernation and join one of our community groups. Book Club @the café is on Tuesday 7th March at 2pm and we are discussing Freezing Order by Bill Browder. Wednesday 22nd March at 2pm is the date for our next Knit and Natter. You are welcome to either group if you just want to listen, natter or drink tea! Parent and Baby Group continues every Wednesday morning from 10am..
Debbie Sargent, Ilmington Community Shop Committee

Wednesday Club Next Meeting on 8th March at 2pm

With all these active sessions going on in the Village Hall, it was appropriate that we had Vanessa Compton from the Shipston Health and Wellbeing Partnership to come and talk to us about our physical and mental health. Vanessa is a full time volunteer in helping villages establish physical activities. She says Ilmington's attendance in these sessions is excellent. Our next meeting, on 8th March, will be focused on the life of a guide dog puppy. Hopefully a Guide Dog representative with a dog will be there besides my sister with her two retired 'brood bitches'. No rude remarks please! If you have any questions on how you could be of use, then this is the place to be! March sees just the one birthday of Stephen Wright on 23rd. Happy birthday Stephen! Take care everyone.
Carole Clifford, Chairperson
[Thank you to the Wednesday Club for pledging an annual donation to support the magazine. Editor]

Ilmington Screen on the Green

On Friday 24 March we will be showing "A Man Called Otto", which stars Tom Hanks in the title role. Based on a best-selling novel, this black comedy tells the story of a grouchy widower who has given up on life until the delightfully feisty Marisol (Mariana Treviño) and her young family move in across the street. Rated 15. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start at Ilmington Village Hall. Tickets on sale in advance from the Village Shop, although some will be available on the door. Licensed bar and raffle.
Lis Ribbans, Ilmington Cinema Group

Spring Flower Show

Ilmington Village Hall, Saturday 1 April 2023 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. There is no charge for entries which will be registered on the day and admission will be only £1. There will be the scent of spring flowers, there will be tea and cake, there will be prizes and a plant sale. Who could resist? The schedule will be available in the Community Shop at the beginning of March. For more information contact Susan Brock T:01608 682409; E: S.brock9@btinternet.com
Susan Brock, Secretary, Ilmington Horticultural Society

Snowdrops and Cake

Thanks to everyone who supported this event: the cake makers, Kate Helmsley for the picture for the raffle prize, the gardeners who displayed their snowdrops, the donors and the Community Shop for allowing us to use the cafe We raised over £1400 in aid of Prostate Cancer UK and Pancreatic Cancer UK .
Catherine Hilton

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

The Newbold Plant Sale: Advance Warning

Date for your Diary . The sale will be held on **Saturday 27th May**. If you are planting seeds think about sowing a few more, or maybe you are splitting some overgrown perennials? Donations of plants always appreciated.

Gilly Marsden

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society GLORIA! on 25th March 2023

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society concert of 'glorious' music for choir, brass and organ is on **Saturday 25th March 2023 at 7.30pm** in Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford. Music Director Oliver Neal Parker will conduct the Choir, soprano Heather Wardle, Brass and percussion ensemble and Douglas Keilitz, organ. The programme includes Rutter's exciting *Gloria*, Mendelssohn's *Hear My Prayer* an exquisite cantata with the famous 'O for the wings of a dove', Elgar's anthems – Psalm 29 *Give unto the Lord* and *Spirit of the Lord*, the latter from *The Apostles* and Parry's grand setting of Milton's 'At a Solemn Music' *Blest Pair of Sirens*.

Townsend Hall Shipston-on-Stour

Lots of great things were on at the hall in February! The Treasure Island pantomime staged by Shipston Am-Dram was great fun; Cotswold Events abboholics was a sell out; and, at the time of writing, we're doing a roaring trade in tickets for Tenement Jazz Band. In March, watch out for Tom "Spats" Langham's Hot Fingers on the 31st – previously a sell-out, so get in quick – tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, or from Clarke Electrical Services in town. If you have an event requirement, we'd love to hear from you: Contact info@townsendhall.com, 07514704057, or fill in the booking enquiry form on www.townsendhall.co.uk. Take a look at the website for more - **teaser for you**: we think you're really going to want to get tickets for the event we've got booked in for the 21st April! *Haydn Ward, Trustee*



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Tom "Spats" Langham's Hot Fingers



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SERVICE ROTA

March 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
5 th <i>Lent 2</i>		Holy Communion 11.00am	Evensong (1662) 6.00pm	Holy Communion 9.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	
12 th <i>Lent 3</i>	Morning Worship 11.00am	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am		Holy Communion 10.30am	
19 th <i>Mothering Sunday</i>		Mothering Sunday Service 11.00am		Mothering Sunday Holy Communion 9.30am	Mothering Sunday Service 10.30am	Mothering Sunday Service 4.00pm
26 th <i>Lent 5</i>		Evensong (1662) 6.00pm	Morning Prayer 11.00am		Holy Communion 10.30am	

Note: Services marked '1662' are according to the Book of Common Prayer

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	01608 682146 (landline)
Reader Emeritus:	Malcolm Davies	01789 450793 (landline)

Churchwardens:

Tredington	<i>Posts vacant – contact the Rector</i>	
Darlingscott	Doreen McCarroll	01608 682949 (landline)
Ilmington	Jane Downie	01608 682720 (landline)
	Helen Patrick	
Preston-on-Stour	Andrew Holman- West	07712 193773 (mobile)
Stretton-on-Fosse	<i>Posts vacant – contact the Rector</i>	
Whitchurch	Carol Rutter	01789 450795 (landline)
	John Craner	01789 450200 (landline)

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

Enquiries about advertising in the magazine to Tim Seller: E: tim.seller@outlook.com; T: 01608 682244; Long Barn, Back St., Ilmington, CV36 4LJ. **Deadline for the April issue of the Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine is 18 March.** Copy to Susan Brock, Editor: E: s.brock9@btinternet.com; T: 01608 682409; Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington, CV36 4LA.