

# THE SIX PARISHES MAGAZINE



**ILMINGTON  
PRESTON-ON-STOUR  
ATHERSTONE-ON-STOUR  
STRETTON-ON-FOSSE – DITCHFORD  
TREDINGTON-DARLINGSOTT-WHITCHURCH**

**No. 262**

**December 2021**

# 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](mailto:INFO@HOWARDARMS.COM)

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

# At the heart of Christmas



December as we know is the season of short daylight hours, lit up each year by the anticipation of Christmas. It was ever thus and we can see why the celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ was placed in the darkest days of winter as a beacon towards a new hope. This year promises greater celebration than was possible last year, when Covid pressures on the NHS caused a return to lockdown, families were limited in visiting one another, cemeteries were closed to the public and an entry in my diary for mid-December reads 'All very hard going.'

Since then vaccinations have been made widely available, at least in this country, and something like normal activity has resumed even if the mental scars of the pandemic will yet take a long time to heal. Small, discreet acts of kindness and thoughtfulness continue to thread their way through society and we hope for better days ahead.

World news is not so encouraging and one may think of many places of conflict and suffering; never has there been a greater need for compassion, justice and peace.

Church services will take place with a return to carol services, along with worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day itself – please feel welcomed to any that you may wish to attend. Some Covid restrictions will still be in place such as inviting the wearing of face coverings and keeping of social distancing. We hope to be able to sing! The celebrations will certainly be joyful and perhaps in the circumstance more meaningful than ever.

The Church of England theme this year is 'At the heart of Christmas' with twelve days of stories and reflections to guide us through the season. One can sign up for these via the Benefice website, or a limited number of booklets will be made available in our churches. "But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." Luke ch2 v19.

Jean and I send our warmest greetings for Christmas,  
Stephen,

Revd Stephen Fletcher. Assistant Curate

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December Darlingscott at 4pm**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December Whitchurch at 7 pm.**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December Preston 4 pm; Tredington, Stretton and Ilmington all at 6 pm.**

### **Christmas Eve**

**3pm Christingle at Ilmington**

**4.30pm Christingle at Stretton**

**6.30pm Christingle at Preston**

**9pm Midnight Mass at Whitchurch**

**9pm Midnight Mass at Darlingscott**

**11.15pm Midnight Mass at Tredington**

**11.30pm Midnight Mass at Ilmington**

### **Christmas Day**

**9am Holy Communion at Stretton**

**9.30am Holy Communion at Preston**

**10.30am Holy Communion at Tredington**

**11am Holy Communion at Ilmington**

Keep up to date with everything that is happening on the church website. The Church of England continues to produce services that are free to hear on the telephone simply dial 0800 804 8044. **The website now has the current issue of this magazine available. It is most easily accessed through <https://fosseway6churches.weebly.com/> .** If there is anything you put up on the site do email it directly to [revfletcher24@gmail.com](mailto: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**

#### **Baptism:**

10<sup>th</sup> October Margaret Eleanor Dyer at Stretton-on-Fosse

10<sup>th</sup> October Arthur Harry Dyer at Stretton-on-Fosse

24<sup>th</sup> October Israel McAllister at Tredington

24<sup>th</sup> October Isobella-Sophie McAllister at Tredington

#### **Wedding:**

30<sup>th</sup> October Oliver Ashworth and Maud Billet-Andre at Ilmington

6<sup>th</sup> November Stephen Oliver and Jayne Harrison at Ilmington

### **As if by magic...**

I'm still seeking a new distribution czar. The job of collecting the magazines from the printers in Willersey, bundling up the copies for each parish and delivering them to the local hubs needs an organised mind, a car and half a day a month. If that's you, please get in touch with me on 01608 682409 or email [s.brock9@btinternet.com](mailto:s.brock9@btinternet.com). Susan Brock, Editor.

### **Nature Notes December 2021**

A Christmas card favourite and a gardener's best friend. It's no wonder the robin is one of Britain's most loved birds and was voted for as Britain's national bird. During the Victorian era, when the tradition of sending Christmas cards began, postmen wore red jackets, earning them the nickname 'robins'. From then onwards Christmas cards began to feature the robin. Robins enjoy eating fruits, seeds, and insects, such as beetles. They also love feasting on earthworms and can often be seen in gardens on the lookout for juicy worms as they are dug up by gardeners. We have had the delight of robins coming to our hand to take a dried mealworm. As gardeners or even when at beauty spots we need to be on the alert for these beautiful birds as they can come up close to us unawares. Robins have been known to nest in some weird and wonderful places, from post boxes to unused barbeques! Robins are so territorial they have even been seen attacking stuffed robins – the red breast triggering territorial behaviour! Long may the robin continue to cheer and delight us. Have a very happy and blessed Christmas everyone.

### **Six Parishes Christmas Shoebox Appeal: Thank you!**

Heartfelt thanks to all those who knitted, sewed or made up a shoebox for our annual Link to Hope appeal; your personal Christmas gift to a family or elderly person living in the most impoverished areas of Eastern Europe. A fantastic array of 88 boxes are now on their way by lorry- along with a

record amount of £290 in donations- for the charity to buy items on your behalf. Thanks too, to Ilmington Community Shop, the ladies of Lower Quinton and our village collectors for their support. May the joy you will doubtless bring to the recipients rebound to you all this festive season. Wendy Lewis Edwards, Appeal Coordinator.

## **PRESTON**

### **Preston-on-Stour Village Hall**

**Film Night:** The usual date of our film night, the last Friday in the month, happens to fall on New Year's Eve this year. We are thinking you might have something more exciting to do on that evening so you will have to wait until January for our next film.

**The Preston Quiz - Saturday 5th February 7.30 pm:** This is a popular annual event at the hall. The cost is £5 per person, bring your own drinks and a plate of sandwiches and nibbles will be provided at half time. Mick Jennings is taking bookings so please contact him on 01789 450797 or email [mickandsally76@gmail.com](mailto:mickandsally76@gmail.com).

## **ILMINGTON**

### **Ilmington Parish Council News**

Ilmington Parish Council welcomes new councillor Martin Underwood. The second vacancy on the council is still open. If you are interested in becoming a councillor then please contact the Clerk for details or speak to any councillor. Contact information can be found on the notice boards or council website [www.ilmington.org.uk](http://www.ilmington.org.uk).

**Ilmington Playground:** The annual playground inspection at Ilmington Playground has identified some safety concerns which are currently being addressed. Unfortunately the timber posts on the basket swing are rotting and therefore the unit has been taken out of use. The frame is considered to be beyond economic repair and the council is exploring options for its replacement in the not too distant future. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

**Meetings:** The council usually meets on the last Thursday of the month in Ilmington Community Shop. Future meetings are scheduled for 25 November and 27 January (no meeting in December).

**Contact Us:** The Clerk can be reached by email at [ilmingtonpc@outlook.com](mailto:ilmingtonpc@outlook.com) or telephone 01451 885189. Please see noticeboards in Upper and Lower Green or website [www.ilmington.org.uk](http://www.ilmington.org.uk) for the latest information.

### **Ilmington Cinema Group**

Ilmington Cinema Group send Christmas greetings to all our filmgoers. There will be no screening in December but we hope to be back with first class entertainment for you in the New Year. So make a date in your

diaries for Friday evening, 28 January, at the Village Hall, when we look forward to showing another great movie.

### **The Coven**

Ladies - we shall be enjoying our Christmas get-together at the Howard Arms on December 15th at 12.30. We can choose between traditional turkey, braised ox cheek, plaice or chargrilled celeriac, all with trimmings. The cost will be £15 and we must pre-book. Give me a call on 682 605 in good time. Happy holidays! Christine

### **Ilmington Village Hall Postponement of Quiz Night.**

Many of you will have been looking forward to the Village Hall quiz night which was due to be held 19 November. Regrettably the trustees decided to postpone the event until 19 February due to the significant increase in coronavirus positive cases in the local area. Hopefully this wretched pandemic will have receded by then and we can look forward to an evening of brain exercise and fun in the company of friends.

### **Ilmington Community Shop and Café: Christmas News**

We're gearing up for Christmas and we've got lots of lovely Christmas treats in store, from stocking fillers to gingerbread house kits. On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, we will once again host our Lights in the Dark event, which begins with church bells at 3.15pm. Take a walk around Ilmington as the windows and gardens come alive with candles and fairy lights. The Community Shop Christmas tree is lit at 4.30pm and we are serving takeaway wine from the café. It will be a lovely get together and a chance to think about the real meaning of Christmas.

We are closing the Community Café from 18<sup>th</sup> December until the New Year, so do come and see us before then. We need the space to organise our Christmas deliveries – please support us by ordering “Christmas in a Box” directly from us. We can do your Christmas shopping for you, with a brilliant selection of local turkeys and meats, Christmas spirits and wine, fresh fruit and vegetables, chocolates and Christmas favourites. Order forms should be returned to us by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Ilmington Wednesday Club**

What a strange year it has been. I just can't believe that we are now coming to December. And that of course, means our Christmas Party. Because of the rising cases of Covid, we have decided to keep it simple so it will be Members only with no outside entertainment. Did I say no fun? I did not as that wonderful spirit of Christmas will be there in all we do, eat and drink. To all our members, here is your invitation!

**Date: Wednesday 8th December Time: 1pm -3pm Venue: Village Hall.** Please dress up, bring £5 for your Christmas Lunch and a 'nice' raffle prize. Wear the biggest smile you have but make sure it's behind your mask!! Safety rules will still be observed! If you haven't booked a seat yet, please contact me on 682 996. See you there!

**Happy Christmas to everyone in the village and a joyous  
New Year from Edith Tuohy, Myrtle Cottage**

## TREDINGTON



### **Tredington Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan: 'Regulation 14' Formal Consultation** **9am Monday 10th January 2022, until 5pm Monday 21st February 2022**

This may be your last chance to comment on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Online or Hardcopy Questionnaire will be available. There will be two workshops.

—Newbold-on-Stour Village Hall: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 6.0 to 9.0 pm AND Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 10.0 am to 2.0 pm

—Tredington WI Hall: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 6.0 to 9.0 pm AND Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 10.0 am to 2.0 pm.

Large parts of the plan will be on display and Steering Committee members will be on hand. Please go to: [www.TredingtonNP.co.uk](http://www.TredingtonNP.co.uk) to view the entire Neighbourhood Plan. Thank you for your support and participation.

### **Tredington and Newbold CofE School**

Our Newbold children visited Tredington for the first time just after half term which we have been excited about for weeks! The older children were keen to take the younger ones under their wing at lunch time. Our School Council have already made their mark with Milkshake Mondays which have been very successful so far and we have another cake sale on the way soon. We took part in Remembrance and enjoyed an in-school harvest collective worship celebration with Ruby and Sapphire sharing poems, Emerald offering harvest prayers and Amber informing us how harvest is celebrated around the world. Our termly Discover an Artist Day also happened recently. Ruby created natural art patterns in the style of Andy Goldsworthy with loose parts such as conkers, Sapphire recreated Van Gogh's 'A Starry Night' using a range of techniques with paint and pastels, Emerald tried out tessellation like Escher and Amber created their own Lowry style stick drawing scenes with charcoal. Ruby Class and Nursery are getting ready for their Christmas service performance and everyone will be making a decoration to place on a whole school tree which will be displayed in St David's Church for the Christmas Tree Festival.

### **Tredington Film Night**

The next film night on 3<sup>rd</sup> December is now fully booked. There will be an additional Film Matinee on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm – a classic, musical version of the Cinderella story suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is free, by advance booking. To book text or email Gill at 07789810877 / [gillgoodlad@hotmail.com](mailto:gillgoodlad@hotmail.com). Our next scheduled evening film will be on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, bar from 7.00; film at 7.30pm – more in the January edition.

### **Tredington and District Garden Club**

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be the annual Member's Lunch on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – more in the January edition.



### **Tredington Ladies Evening**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 7.00 – 9.00pm in the WI Hall. A special evening for busy women to relax and unwind. The theme of the evening will be “Heavenly Scent – a practical guide to relaxation”. Free admission includes nibbles & a glass of prosecco, time to chat, advice and demonstrations from a professional. Places will be limited and can be booked in advance from Gill (text 07789810877 or email [gillgoodlad@hotmail.com](mailto:gillgoodlad@hotmail.com)). More details from Gill, Tredington Facebook page and in the January edition.

### **Craft and Chatter**

Do join us on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, for more craft and chatter. If you would like to have more information, please ring Trish on 01789 740185.

## **STRETTON-ON-FOSSE**

### **Christmas Decorations**

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec at 9.30am, no experience necessary. New helpers particularly welcome. Contact Emma 01608 664300.

### **Stretton Parish Charity**

Many of you will be aware of this Charity, but for the benefit of those that aren't, small annual payments are currently issued under the following categories, depending on available funds:

**‘Winter Fuel Payment’** – an annual payment is made in December to anyone over 65, who have been resident in the Parish for 3 years or more. **Also**, to households with at least one pre-school aged child.

**‘Moving to secondary school’** – a one off payment made in July to all children moving from year 6 to year 7 to help with costs such as uniform.

**‘Moving to second year of University Education’** – a one off payment made to those who have completed their first year at university and plan to continue onto a second year.

**‘Hardship Payment’** – ‘for the relief of distress and sickness’ by personal application to the trustees or brought to the attention of the trustees.

**‘Individual Educational Grants’** – on personal application to the trustees.

**‘Community Organisations’** – considered on application for projects that will benefit the community of Stretton Parish.

If you would like to get in touch with the trustees about any of these payments, please drop a note of your contact details into the post box on the wall at the entrance to the Village Hall.

## **DARLINGSCOTT**

### **St George Church Darlingscott**

Our Carol service is on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December commencing at 4pm. We normally decorate the church the previous day Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10am. If anyone would like to help, please come along, but if you would prefer to social distance please feel free to come at a time to suit you and decorate the area you would like to. Masks, sanitizers, gloves and wipes are available in church for those who would like to use them, we have some vulnerable people in the village and must respect their needs for social distancing, masks etc. Any problems please ring Doreen 01608 682949.



## WHITCHURCH

### Notes from a small church in a field

In June 2022 Bishop Christopher will be joining us as St Mary's Whitchurch to celebrate our 'Millennium+1', post-poned from last year, no thanks to the pandemic. In fact, while we're counting our millennium by the dates of the vicars recorded as serving St. Mary's that go back to 1020, there has been a church on the site for many more than a thousand years. It is our aim over the coming issues of the parish magazine to give you some insights into this long history. Because of our location and the tendency of fields to water-logging in winter, services are suspended between Christmas and Easter. But St Mary's remains open for prayer, and meditation in the churchyard. Walk across the fields from the corner of Park House by public footpath. Or by permissive vehicular access, reach St. Mary's down the drive to Church Cottage. And watch this space!



*Season's Greetings to Everyone in the  
Six Parishes and Best Wishes for a  
Happy New Year*

# Services for December 2021

	St George's, Darlingstons	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 <sup>th</sup> December		Holy Communion 11 am	Evensong 6 pm	Holy Communion 9am	Family Service 10.30am	Holy Communion 9.30 am
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service 4 pm	Holy Communion 9.30 am	Holy Communion 9.30 am	Family Service 11 am	Holy Communion 10.30am	16 <sup>th</sup> Dec Thurs, Carol service 7pm
19 <sup>th</sup> December		Carol Service 6 pm	Carol Service 4 pm	Carol Service 6 pm	Carol Service 6 pm	Morning Prayer 9.30 am
26 <sup>th</sup> December	Holy Communion 10.30 am					
2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2022		Holy Communion 11 am	Evensong 6 pm	Holy Communion 9am	Family Service 10.30am	

## Interim Assistant Curate

Reverend Stephen Fletcher 07714171143 [revfletcher24@gmail.com](mailto:revfletcher24@gmail.com)

## Honorary Assistant Minister

Reverend Dr Timothy Seller 01608 682244

## Minister with Permission to Officiate

Reverend Jean Fletcher

Rosanna Wakefield 01608 682146

Malcolm Davies 01789 450793 Anthony Nicholl 01608 239578

## Emeritus

## Churchwardens

Tredington with Darlingstons churchwarden post vacant

Doreen McCarroll 01608 682949

Ilmington Jane Downie 01608 682720

Preston-on-Stour Andrew Holman-West 07712193773

Stretton-on-Fosse churchwarden post vacant

Whitchurch Carol Rutter 01789 450795

Helen Patrick

second churchwarden post vacant

John Craner 01789 450200

Deadline for January issue is 11 **December**. Copy to Susan Brock [s.brock9@btinternet.com](mailto:s.brock9@btinternet.com), Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington CV36 4LA. T: 01608 682409. To advertise contact Gabrielle Spencer [spencer592@btinternet.com](mailto:spencer592@btinternet.com), 1 Cross Leys, Ilmington, CV36 4RT. T: 01608 682758.



## OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

### Christmas Tree Festival, Newbold-on-Stour

The much loved **Christmas Tree Festival** returns to St David's Church in Newbold on Stour starting with atmospheric launch on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 6 – 7.30pm, serving mulled wine and mince pies. On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 5pm there will also be a Christingle workshop and refreshments, together with a produce stall. Sunday 10am – 4pm the festivities continue with refreshments. The raffle will run throughout the week-end. Entrance is free but donations to church funds are very much appreciated. The Festival comes to a conclusion with the **Christingle Service** starting at 4pm, a firm favourite.

### Nurses' Home Made Cake Stall

At the Shipston Rotary Victorian Evening Friday 3 December 2021, 6-9m. For more information contact [www.Shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events](http://www.Shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events) .

### Shipston Medical Centre

Our latest newsletter is available under the Patient News section on our website, where you will find informative updates about what is going on the practice, together with other health related information. There are a few new members of the team, but sadly Dr Williams is leaving at the end of December, as mentioned in our previous newsletter. Any messages for his retirement can be sent to [messagesfordavidsmc@gmail.com](mailto:messagesfordavidsmc@gmail.com) for us to compile for him. Contrary to common belief, our clinicians have continued to see patients face to face throughout the pandemic where clinically required and we will continue this and increase these as appropriate with regards to the COVID risks. The staff continue to wear masks. Please attend for your COVID booster vaccinations. If you have the NHSApp and you have missing or incorrect COVID-19 vaccination data then please call 119 and ask the agent to make a referral to the Vaccination Data Resolution Service (VDRS). The VDRS will then call you back within 5 working days. Do not call the surgery regarding this as we can't help.. October is Breast Cancer Awareness month – please have received your letter – it's important for early detection and saves about 1,300 lives a year in the UK.

### Prelude to Christmas

Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society presents its Christmas concert on Saturday 18th December 2021 at Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford at 7.30pm. This will be a celebration, heralding the real start of Christmas week, with a programme containing some well-loved Christmas carols as well as some new music, with organ accompaniment by Douglas Keilitz. Readings will be given by our well-known thespian bass Tim Raistrick. The conductor is Oliver Neal Parker. Tickets for 18<sup>th</sup> December Concert (£15 adults, £8 students) are available from choir members, on line at [www.stratfordchoral.org.uk](http://www.stratfordchoral.org.uk) or at the door on concert night. Two children up to 16 are admitted free if accompanied by a paying adult – a marvellous opportunity to introduce youngsters to music.

### Townsend Hall Shipston

Events keep on coming! Check out "Events" on our website. As noted last month, we're a charity and rely on booking fees, donations, and support for our funding initiatives to keep the hall well maintained and to improve the facilities we offer. There are still numbers available in our "150 club", so please check that out (website below) and hopefully you're considering us when, at no cost to you, you shop through Amazon Smile or "easyfundraising" (link on website). The **150 Club winners in the November draw** are: £15 no. 112; £10 no. 103; £5 no. 40. Visit us at [www.townsendhall.co.uk](http://www.townsendhall.co.uk) to find out more.

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All proceeds will go towards a portable wheelchair platform lift to provide access for all to raised areas such as the hall stage

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Maximum 30 words £4.00 per month, £10.00 for 3 months. Please supply text as a Word document and send to Gabrielle Spencer, 1 Cross Leys, Ilmington, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4RT; E: [Spencer592@btinternet.com](mailto:Spencer592@btinternet.com).

# Whitchurch Farm Turkeys



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STRETTON-ON-FOSSE

## Village Hall

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Email:- [strettonvillagehall@strettononfosse.com](mailto:strettonvillagehall@strettononfosse.com)  
Telephone:- 01608 663865

We have put in place all the necessary measures to protect everyone using the hall.  
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*COVID-19 risk assessment & measures in place*



## ILMINGTON COMMUNITY **SHOP \* CAFE**

Our community shop is run by a village cooperative for the benefit of the community. The shop stocks a comprehensive range of fresh local produce and everyday items at competitive prices.

For the opening hours of the shop and cafe, visit [www.ilmingtonshop.co.uk](http://www.ilmingtonshop.co.uk) or see us on Facebook.



The Old Church, Upper Green, Ilmington

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