

# **THE SIX PARISHES MAGAZINE**



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

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

**No. 251**

**December 2020**

# THE HOWARD ARMS ILMINGTON



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## Christmas 2020

I am writing this piece for the Six Parishes' Magazine during the current lock-down and of course at this stage we cannot know exactly how the Christmas period will work out. A decision has been made with regard to church services in our Shipston Deanery and it has sadly been agreed that Carol services at church will not be possible this year. We have also decided it would not be appropriate to bring people out of their homes into the dark during this time of pandemic, for any evening or Midnight Communion services. As we have said a number of times: this will be 'a Christmas like no other'. Perhaps we can discover something new within ourselves as we approach the celebrations in this way. There may be greater opportunity for quiet contemplation and prayer as we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Michael Ramsey, a great Archbishop of Canterbury in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century once said 'God is Christ-like and in Him is no unChrist-likeness at all.' This is something worth pondering. This year's Church of England initiative 'Comfort and Joy' can be part of this reflection; details as below. We hope to return to the regular pattern of services, but again we cannot yet know when our churches will be open again. When we are able to resume services the plan will continue as we have been, until the Covid virus is "under control".

### **Regular pattern:**

#### *1st Sunday of each month*

9.30 am Whitchurch Holy Communion  
10.30 am Tredington Family service

#### *2nd Sunday*

9.30 am Ilmington Holy Communion  
11.00 am Darlingscott Family Service

#### *3rd Sunday*

9.30 am Preston Holy Communion  
10.30 am Tredington Holy Communion

#### *4th Sunday*

9 am Stretton Holy Communion  
11 am Ilmington Family service

In January Whitchurch will, as normal, cease holding services until Easter. There will then be a 9.30am Holy Communion at Preston on the 1st Sunday.

### **Advent and Christmas services:**

The plan, assuming we are open, is to hold as many **Christmas Day**

**Communion** services as we can during the day time. This will give people the opportunity both to attend church at Christmas and to receive their Christmas communion. We will also put a midnight service on YouTube and a service for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. These services will include the seasonal carols.

29th November 6 pm Advent Carol service - youtube  
20th December 6pm Carol service - youtube  
24th December 11.30 Midnight Communion 11.30pm - youtube

### **Christmas Day at church:**

9.00am Stretton  
9.30am Whitchurch  
9.30 am Preston  
10.30am Tredington  
11.00am Ilmington

27th December 10.30am Benefice service **at Darlingscott church**

3rd January 6pm Epiphany Carol Service - youtube

The 6<sup>th</sup> January sees the celebration of the Epiphany, a word meaning the revealing, the revelation of God to his people. In such days of uncertainty we can look again towards our loving God who sent his Son Jesus Christ to be on earth, and who has always stayed close by to people in times of suffering. The Covid pandemic is often be on earth, and who has always stayed close by to people in times of suffering. The Covid pandemic is often revealing the best in people and we are thankful for kindnesses shown and for all who are going the extra mile for their neighbour. Epiphany reminds us that everything comes into the light and that we can continue to be confident in our faith. There is much for which to give thanks.

The website mentioned in last month's magazine has now been launched and can be found through the **Church of England A Church Near You** website. Please keep in touch with it as that is where we can put up any news in the coming weeks.

**Advent Zoom coffee mornings** are all set to begin Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November and for the following weeks, 1<sup>st</sup> Dec/ 8<sup>th</sup> Dec/ 15<sup>th</sup> Dec/ 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Coffee in hand we will meet at 10.40am, catch up with one another and then Jean will lead a short reflection, the session ending at 11.20am. Please e-mail Jean to receive the zoom link, if you have not already done so. All welcome.



As in previous years, the national Church will work with dioceses and churches to make a range of digital and print content available, branded with the **Comfort and Joy** theme:

There will be weekly reflections published on social media and available by e-mail and app for each Sunday of Advent. **Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas** mirrors the structure of a traditional carol service, exploring both biblical texts and the words of much-loved Christmas carols. The reflections for each day from Christmas Day to 2 January feature contributions from Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcott, Martha Collison, Stephen Cottrell, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Justin Welby. They will also be made available freely via audio, smart speaker, as well as via app and email formats with accompanying prayer activities for children and families.

Working with the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust and the Evangelism & Discipleship team, there will be a series of youth reflections in December.

We hope you and your family will have perhaps a different but very blessed Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Stephen and Jean Fletcher on behalf of our 6 Church communities

**Please note - YouTube services continue each Sunday at 10.30am** Churches of Ilmington Tredington Plus

The Church of England continues to produce services that are free to hear on the telephone simply dial **0800 804 8044**

**Interim Assistant Curate** Reverend Stephen Fletcher  
**Chaplain** Reverend Jean Fletcher  
Both: 07714171143 [revfletcher24@gmail.com](mailto:revfletcher24@gmail.com)  
**Readers** Rosanna Wakefield 01608 682146  
**Emeritus** Malcolm Davies 01789 450793  
Anthony Nicholl 01608 239578

**Churchwardens**  
Tredington with Darlingscott *churchwarden post vacant*  
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Ilmington Angus Chambers 01608 682283  
Preston-on-Stour Andrew Holman-West 07712193773  
Stretton-on-Fosse Simon Bayliss 01608 662712  
Whitchurch Doug Wilson 01789 450310  
Richard James 01789 450853

**There will be no January issue of the magazine.** Deadline for February issue is 16 **January 2021**. 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.

### **From the Registers**

There are no entries in the registers this month.

### **Advent: Comfort and Joy**

This is an invitation to anyone and everyone!

'Light a space in your  
window or garden for the  
Christ-Child passing by.'

What would welcome him? What would he enjoy; make him smile? What would bring comfort and joy to all who pass by ... ? Join in ... be Creative ... have fun! Be a welcoming light shining in the darkness of these uncertain times! Let us know you are joining in the fun. Contact: Ros Wakefield - [rwakefield111@btinternet.com](mailto:rwakefield111@btinternet.com)

### **Encouragement**

We have been living through a strange and difficult year. For some of us, it has been a lonely year, and an anxious time. It seems it could be a while until life becomes more normal. As a Christian I know I can put my trust in God as He is a refuge and a place of safety. God is near, He loves us and knows intimately what we are going through. Because Jesus died on the cross, we can have direct contact with God. We can talk to him anytime and anywhere. He will listen and will answer our prayers. He is our heavenly Father, our companion and friend. I want to encourage you to call out to Him. You can be honest with Him, and tell Him how you are feeling.

We have all been spending much more time on our own for much of this year. If you would like to have a chat, company and a cup of tea, please contact me. We can arrange a convenient time to meet or chat over the phone. Jane Neate, Lower Green, Ilmington. T: 682520.

## Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal – It's a RECORD!

Huge thanks to all those who responded to this year's Xmas Shoebox Appeal for families and the elderly across Eastern Europe. I am delighted to report we have 122 boxes ready for collection and donations totalling £285.00 - the largest amount in the 21 years we have been running our Six Parishes Appeal! Despite-or maybe because of the pandemic- your generosity has known no bounds. Thank you to everyone, including our village collectors, Ilmington School, Community Shop and Wednesday Club. To all those who knitted warm hats, gloves and scarves, and to the ladies from Quinton who always support us. Donations will be spent on bulk buying items to fill even more boxes at Link to Hope HQ, and to pay for emergency help needed by communities where boxes are delivered. Christmas may be different this year, but your positive, caring action will be so much appreciated by those who receive your gift at this most difficult of times. [www.linktohope.org.uk](http://www.linktohope.org.uk). Wendy Lewis Edwards, Appeal Coordinator

### **Nature Notes: December**

Mistletoe is found across the UK on a variety of host plants including apple, lime, poplar, sycamore, ash and hawthorn it is rarely found on oak. Most of the mistletoe is found in the south west Midlands. Birds such as blackcaps and mistle thrushes may help to spread it across the UK. Blackcaps enjoy mistletoe berries, and those that visit the UK for the winter from Germany and Austria devour the autumn-ripening fruit. After eating the flesh, they wipe off the sticky seeds on the branches of trees, sowing the seeds of future harvests. Due to mistletoe's association with paganism, the plant is sometimes banned from Christmas decorations however pictures of it can be found on Christmas cards! Although we are living in strange and difficult times may you find the space and time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas this year.

#### *Christmas cake for the Birds:*

Children, if you would like to make a cake for the birds to help them through winter then here is the recipe. You will need help from an adult for this. Please note that if you buy peanuts specially for the birds you should not eat them as they are not suitable for people to eat and you should not include them if you have a peanut allergy.

Bird seed	Yoghurt pots
Raisins	
Peanuts – optional see above	String
Grated cheese	Mixing bowl
Suet or lard	Scissors

Carefully make a small hole in the bottom of a yoghurt pot. Thread string through the hole and tie a knot on the inside. Leave enough string so that you can tie the pot to a tree or your bird table.

Add the other ingredients to the bowl and mix them together with your fingertips. Keep adding the seed/raisin/cheese mixture and squidding it until the fat holds it all together.

Fill your yoghurt pots with bird cake mixture and put them in the fridge to set for an hour or so.

Hang your speedy bird cakes from trees or your bird table. Watch for the birds to come and enjoy.

With thanks to the RSPB for the recipe.

### **Unusual Plants by Paul Williams: Fuchsia magellanica 'Versicolor'**

I am writing this on 13<sup>th</sup> November and looking across at one of my all-time favourite plants in full flower. It is the hardy Fuchsia magellanica 'Versicolor'. I have

two plants, one caught by the recent frosts but the crisped leaves still look good and the other, more sheltered, looking as glorious as it did in midsummer. Fuchsia magellanica comes from Chile in the region of the Straits of Magellan where it is found growing along stream sides and in marshy places. The small, busy leaves of the variety 'Versicolor' are silver grey with white striped margins and young growth is flushed reddish purple – sounds a bit garish but it is quite the opposite. I would grow it for its foliage alone but it strings out, along arching stems and in perfect colour harmony with the leaves, elegant, refined looking hanging flowers with dark magenta petals and a purple heart. It can grow taller but with me one metre is usual. Come the spring, if last year's shoots are showing signs of life you can just cut off the dead tips and let them grow but otherwise cut all shoots down to near ground level after the worst of the cold winter weather. Plenty of sunshine and moisture in summer will give best results.

### **Here to help: Ilmington Community Shop**

As we move in and out of lockdown this winter, please think of Ilmington Community Shop for safer shopping. We have masks and sanitizer, a one-way system and a two-person policy, so you can relax in the comfort of your local village store.

At the time of writing, Christmas Ordering is well underway, but you still have until 11<sup>th</sup> December to order from us! Our Christmas list is longer than Santa's, so collect a form to see the full range. We have some wonderful suppliers: Jane Spencer's Christmas cakes, puddings and chocolates; Spirit of Ilmington's fruit gins, spiced rum and famous Apple Brandy; Cotswold Sausage Company; Cotswold Pudding and Pie – and of course Barry the Butcher's turkey, goose, duck and gammon. If you're feeding fewer folk this year, we are offering turkey crown or breast too.

If you are vulnerable or shielding and want to browse while the shop is closed, please call manager Michele Hall on 682838. This is also the number for home delivery by our crack team of volunteers! Place fresh food and grocery orders by 3pm on Monday or Thursday for next-day delivery to Ilmington, Blackwell and Darlingscott. Or email [orders@ilmingtonshop.co.uk](mailto:orders@ilmingtonshop.co.uk)

## **BLACKWELL**

### **The League of Friends of Shipston-on-Stour Hospitals**

We would like to thank the villagers in Blackwell who have kindly returned their blue envelopes with their annual subscriptions/donations to the League of Friends. It has been a difficult year as we have been unable to collect from you personally so are truly grateful for those returned. We hope you found the League of Friends newsletter informative together with the future plans for the development of the Ellen Badger Hospital in Shipston. If you wish to pay a subscription by direct debit please call Colette on 682272. Thank you. Colette and Hazel (Blackwell residents)



## **TREDINGTON**

### **Neighbourhood Plan: The story so far November**

Following the recommendations of our independent planning consultants, and the clearly expressed views of residents, the Clerk to Tredington Parish Council has written to the landowners of sites that the Neighbourhood Plan group considers appropriate to be designated as Local Green Spaces. The landowners have been invited to respond within 21 days. Local Green Spaces must be approved by both the Independent Examiner, the District Council and, of course, residents who will be consulted further when circumstances permit. Meanwhile AECOM, the independent

planning consultants appointed by Locality, the organisation set up by Government to promote Neighbourhood Plans, continues to consider potential sites for possible future development. AECOM consultants are well aware of where the two Local Service Villages, Newbold-on-Stour and Tredington, stand in relation to the District Council's development strategy. Development already far exceeds the strategy up to 2031.

We expect AECOM's report before year end. Stratford District Council (SDC) has published its Site Allocation Plan, Preferred Options, for consultation. Consultation ends on 18th December 2020. The document can be viewed on the SDC website here: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/doc/209801/name/Composite%20version%20v3.pdf> and you are encouraged to have a look and make comment if you wish.

If you want to be involved please contact Nigel Willis: [nigelwillis48@gmail.com](mailto:nigelwillis48@gmail.com) or Sally Ward: [olivehill@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:olivehill@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Christmas Wishes**

Jenny and John Plenderleith will not be sending Christmas cards this year to local friends but instead will be giving a donation to the British Heart Foundation. We would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and our best wishes for a healthy and peaceful New Year. Times are hard but with friends and support around we will get through it and appreciate our lives more in the year to come.

### **WI Hall Tredington**

We've been using the 'lockdown' period to refurbish and improve the hall ready for re-opening in 2021. In addition to the visible external redecoration, the hall now has new audio-visual equipment, including microphones and a hearing loop, and Wi-Fi. The hall will also obtain licenses to allow playing of live and recorded music, films and limited alcohol sales at planned events. Our premises licence application was submitted to the Licensing Authority, Stratford on Avon District Council on 30<sup>th</sup> November, with a period of 28 days for individuals to make representations to the Council. To view the full application and make representations to the Council, please visit:

[www.stratford.gov.uk/licences-permissions/recent-licence-applications.cfm](http://www.stratford.gov.uk/licences-permissions/recent-licence-applications.cfm)

## **ILMINGTON**

### **December Wednesday Club Meeting Cancelled**

I cannot believe we are into our ninth month of cancelling yet another meeting....and our favourite one as well! Let us all hope that the vaccination process will speed up and we can meet again early next year. Alas, the new (or old lockdown as it will be when you read this) has stopped the distribution of cakes for the time being. We will resume as soon as allowed. A little treat in the form of a 'Christmas Afternoon Tea' will be coming to every members' home on 16th December as a way of saying a Happy Christmas to you all. Thelma and I hope you will enjoy this little box of goodies. This is also the month that we have a members birthday and that is Sheila Ribbans on 13th December. A very happy birthday on that day Sheila .

Our shoebox appeal was a tremendous success! We literally ran out of boxes! I think that we would have filled 12 but as we only had 9, some things were given in bags. A big thank you from me and from Wendy Lewis Edwards, the appeal coordinator. I was so proud of our Club when Bryan and I struggled to deliver them all to her door!

At our last AGM, we decided as a Club, to continue sponsoring our Guide Dog puppy. As we had no knowledge of what was to come, there was no urgency in collecting the money. Eight of you paid the required £2.50 so as you can see, we are in dire need of funds now. Thelma and myself will be happy to collect your donation when we deliver cakes or else just post it in our letter boxes. The good news is that Eve, our sponsored puppy has graduated and is on her way to her new owner. However we now have a replacement; the most gorgeous fluffy golden retriever called Ginger! That just leaves me to wish you all a Happy Christmas but above all, a healthy 2021. Stay safe everyone!

Pease be aware that there will be a book sale at the Village Shop/cafe each **Wednesday** between 10am and 3pm. These are books that have been donated to the Wednesday Club and we are happy to part with them on a donation basis. Popular fiction, crime stories, historical novels and some autobiographies will be on sale so please bring cash if you are interested. This will start as soon as Lockdown finishes so fingers crossed for December 3rd.

### Ilmington Coven: A Witch's Wish-list

Christmas, may it be Covid-free  
Old friends, that they remembered be  
Village visits for lunch and tea  
Enjoying each other's company  
New Year - health and harmony!

### Ilmington Screen on the Green

A Happy Christmas and a brighter New Year to all our friends and Cinema goers from the Ilmington Cinema Group. We have some entertaining films waiting to be shown at the Village Hall as soon as we have the go ahead. Looking forward to 2021 and hopefully being back in business once more. Stay safe ! Watch this space for details.

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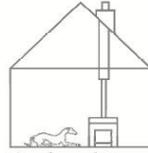
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