



The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No. 7 Oct. 2023

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THE DOWNS AND VALLEY CHURCHES SERVICE ROTA OCTOBER 2023

Oct 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
1st Trinity 17		11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	6.00pm Harvest Festival	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Harvest Festival	4.00pm Harvest Festival
8th Trinity 18	11.00am Harvest Festival and 150 th Anniversary	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion (1662)	4.00pm Harvest Festival	11.00am Holy Communion	
15th Trinity 19		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am No service	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)
22nd Trinity 20	4.00pm Evening Worship (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	11.00am Morning Worship		11.00am Holy Communion	
29th Last after Trinity		11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion (1662)		11.00am Morning Worship	

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

Reader: Ros Wakefield

Reader Emeritus: Malcolm Davies

Churchwardens:

Tredington *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*

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 *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*

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.

Richard Cooke, Rector, writes

A Good World?

The beginning of the Book of Genesis doesn't get a very good press these days – the story of a six-day creation, which someone in the 17th Century calculated must have begun on 23 October, 4004 BC (at 9am, to be precise!) is frequently dismissed as having been disproved long ago; not least because we know that the earth is much, much, older than that.

In fact it's only really in the more modern era that people began to take the story of the creation of the world in Genesis literally in this way. Go back to the early Christian centuries and you find that there was widespread recognition that the creation stories in Genesis were imaginative meditations. In a world that people experienced as full of change and chance, as we still do, the opening of Genesis makes an affirmation of faith that the world is good, even if occasionally the evidence seems to point in another direction. After each action of creation comes the refrain, 'And God saw that it was good.' There is a theory that in the early pages of the Bible what we actually have is a script for an ancient act of worship, and that the people would join in this refrain, repeating again and again, 'And God saw that it was good.'

It takes faith to believe that the world is good, sometimes, but the Harvest season which we celebrate in late September and early October in our churches is a time for reaffirming that belief and giving thanks for all the good things we receive. The act of planting seeds is itself an act of faith in a good world, that the seeds will grow and a harvest will result. The ancient focus is on the harvest of the land, of course, but it's actually a good opportunity to reflect on all the good things, both material and non-material, that we have received. It's out of that sense of thankfulness that generosity can grow, again, both materially and non-materially: we rightly speak of generosity of heart as well as generosity with money.

The Book of Genesis takes this a step further and invites us to see that this is how God sees the world, too. For all its shortcomings at times, the world is fundamentally good, and it is pretty much a straight line from that thought to the way John's Gospel describes that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only son' for it (John 3.16).

This Harvest I hope we can both give thanks, joining in the ancient tradition, and also be generous in our response to the good world that surrounds us.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday falls on 12 November this year, and will be marked in each of the churches in the group by a service starting at 10.50am.

Congratulations to St George's Darlingscott!

St George's has recently celebrated its 150th anniversary -see Darlingscott news for details of the celebration event on 7 October and Harvest Festival on 8 October.

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

From the Registers

Banns of Marriage

At Tredington, 3, 10, 17 September, Christopher Kershaw and Rebecca Hudson, of Neath, Glamorgan (marriage to take place at Tredington, 12 Oct 2023)

Wedding

At Tredington, 16 September, Rory Pennington and Katy Welch

Editor's Note

The deadline for copy for the November issue is 16 October 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 Michael Ritson of Tredington. 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 October 2023

Spiders build webs all year round, but we notice them more in the Autumn, because they tend to be out looking for a mate, making them more visible. A spider's web is like the wheel of a bike, the "spokes" aren't sticky, while the strands that circle the spokes are. Four spiders make this type of web in about two hours starting by drifting a silk line across a gap and adding supporting threads. The web traps the spider's prey. King David was saved by a spider's web when on the run from his enemies. David hid in a cave with his enemies closing in. Who came to the rescue? God sent a spider to build a web across the

entrance to the cave. His enemies didn't bother to check the cave because they took the spider's web as a sign that no one had entered it.

Gill

Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2023: **Deadline Sunday 5 November**

'Delight and a deep sense of gratefulness that people had not forgotten them' - that was the reaction from families in war torn Ukraine as your shoeboxes got through last Christmas. Link to Hope's 2023 Shoebox Appeal is determined to reach out again, delivering directly to the poorest and the elderly, for whom these Christmas gifts are a lifeline. Others will go by lorry to Romania, Moldova and Bulgaria. Why not make up a box with a friend or between families? The charity's website shows you how to do this for just £10 (see below). To support the appeal pick up your INSTRUCTION LEAFLET from Ilmington Community Shop or from any of our six churches.

Fill a shoebox suitable for either a FAMILY or for an ELDERLY PERSON. Items can be secondhand if in good condition.

Deliver your box by SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER to your village collector:

STRETTON: Margaret Holdsworth, Withens - 01608 661782

TREDINGTON: Denise Belchambers, Spring Cottage - 01608 663686

PRESTON & WHITCHURCH: Gill Hanrahan, The Old Vicarage, Preston - 01789 450448

ILMINGTON & DARLINGSCOTT: Wendy Lewis Edwards, Croake Cottage, Frog Lane, Ilmington - 01608 682049

OR If you prefer to MAKE A DONATION so that Link to Hope can buy items on your behalf, then please let me have your cheque MADE OUT TO THE CHARITY or cash by the deadline, together with your full name and address, stating if you are a taxpayer for Gift Aid purposes.

OR go online to www.linktohope.co.uk/shoebox appeal where you can help the charity to buy essential items direct.

Thank you in advance for your wonderful generosity in these difficult economic times.

Wendy Lewis Edwards, Appeal Coordinator

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Show

The Show's objectives are

- to provide an event to allow local clubs & societies raise funds to support their own activities
- to generate monies financially to support village and other local charities, groups and organisations that benefit the parish and its community
- to provide an enjoyable afternoon for families and friends from Ilmington and the surrounding villages

The 2023 Show was a resounding success thanks to the support of generous sponsors, the hard work of stallholders and

volunteers, and to over 4000 visitors who came and enjoyed themselves. As a result the Show Committee has an amount of funds to disburse. Any group wishing to make a bid for support should please apply in writing to the Committee Secretary, Susan Brock (Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington CV36 4LA; E: s.brock9@btinternet.com), by Wednesday 8 November, stating clearly the name of the applicant and organisation, contact details, the intended use of a grant, the beneficiaries, the amount of money requested and the timescale of the project. If you need further information please contact Susan Brock.

Ilmington C of E Primary School

Our new academic year got off to a flying start with the welcoming of 15 new reception children to the school. It is a big step for these little ones but they were greeted by smiling staff and exciting activities which enabled the children to settle in to life at Ilmington School very quickly. We were recently thinking in collective worship about the first week back and getting used to new routines. It is rather like a new pair of shoes which initially feel awkward and different. But as the shoes wear in, they soon become familiar and comfortable - just like getting used to a new class, year group or teacher. There is a real buzz about this year with exciting plans for the coming term being discussed and lots of activities to enrich our curriculum and offering here being prepared. We are looking forward to a great year!

Paul Crouch, Headteacher

Ilmington Screen-on-the-Green: Love Sarah (12A)

On **Friday 27 October** we are showing *Love Sarah*, a romantic and poignant drama about a young woman who enlists the help of her estranged grandma (Celia Imrie) and a best friend as she seeks to fulfill her late mother's dream of opening a bakery in London's Notting Hill. Join us for this uplifting film set across three generations, with performances that all rise perfectly to the occasion. 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.

Lis Ribbans, Ilmington Cinema Group

Ilmington Village Hall

To mark the 50th anniversary of Pink Floyd legendary album, 'The Dark Side of the Moon', we present an evening of Pink Floyd music, Ledge. Saturday 21st of October. tickets available at ticketsource.co.uk.

Well-being events continue with Zumba gold on Tuesdays at

2:45 pm, mindfulness and meditation on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm, kurling on Thursdays at 2:30 pm, and tai chi on Fridays at 11:15 except for the last Friday of the month when it is at 1 pm.

Bryan Clifford, Chair, Village Hall Committee

Wednesday Club Next Meeting:
October 11th at 2pm , Village Hall

Katie Beswick was an excellent speaker, passionate about the plants in our hedgerows and their uses. She gave us so many useful tips and facts on how nature can provide the answers. Our next meeting will see a return of Analiza Jones, a lady from the Philippines who brings beautiful hand crafted hand-bags of all sizes plus other treasures from that area! Could these possibly be early Christmas presents? Birthdays for October include Mike Matthews on 4th, Betty Bryan on 18th and Carole Clifford on 26th. Happy birthday everyone! The Ilmington Show was a great success for the hard workers that manned our Wednesday Club stalls all day! A big thank you to you all as our funds have now been boosted by £517!

Carole Clifford, Chairperson

Ilmington Community Shop & Café

Hello Pumpkins! Some dates for your October diary...

Sunday 1st October: 10.30am. We're hosting a Big Breakfast in the Café. Long tables, tickets required.

Tuesday 3rd October: 2pm. Book Club @thecafe chats about Bill Bryson's "At Home: A short history of private life".

Saturday 14th October: 10am to 2pm. A return of The Treat Hub: pet pampering in our Marketplace @thecafe.

Friday 20th October: 6.30 for 7pm. The famous long-table supper, theme to be confirmed. Three course meal, wine and a hot drink for £20.

Wednesday 25th October: 2pm A stitch in time for Knit n Natter @thecafe.

See you very soon.

Ilmington Community Shop Committee

PRESTON-ON-STOUR

Preston Village Hall

Harvest Supper - Saturday 21st October 7 for 7.30pm

Please join us for our annual traditional meal of cold meats, vegetarian option, salads, baked potatoes (an innovation this year!) followed by delicious home-made trifle or apple crumble. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. All this for £12

per adult, £6 for under 12s. Booking in advance to Margaret on 450710, prestonbrocks@gmail.com or Mick on 450797, mickandsally76@gmail.com
Preston Film Night - Friday 27th October

Film Night is back and we will be showing 'The Man in the Hat'. This film is a whimsical and playful French film following a journey through France in a Fiat 500. The Man has a framed photograph of an unknown woman sat on the seat beside him and he is being pursued by five angry men in a Citroen Dyane! Much of the film is silent, with music and some subtitled speech. Sounds intriguing and has received good reviews. Doors open at 7pm, film starting at 7.30. £3.50 on the door.

STRETTON-ON-FOSSE

Soup Lunches

Our popular soup lunches will restart on Wednesday November 1st from 12.30pm at the village hall. Like last winter, we aim to have a soup lunch every fortnight so dates until Christmas will be November 1st, 15th and 29th and December 13th. No charge but donations welcome!

Geri Hunting

Dance for Joy led by Geri Hunting

Come and experience my circle dance group with music from around the world. No partner required; no previous dance experience needed. All dances will be taught. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. First Thursday of each month 2.30 - 4pm at Stretton village hall. £5 per session. For more information contact Geri on 07968 338848.

TREDINGTON with DARLINGSCOTT

St George's Church Darlingscott's 150th Anniversary

A reminder that we are celebrating our 150th Anniversary on October 7th, commencing at 6.45pm meet and greet with refreshments followed at 7.15pm by The Gospel Bell group, all welcome, please let Doreen know if you would like to come, notice in church for names and you can also ring on 01608682949 to let me know. The following day Sunday October 8th at 11am is our Harvest Service. All welcome.

Doreen McCarroll, Churchwarden

St George's Hedge Trimming

Weather permitting we shall be trimming the Church Hedge on Sunday October 1st from 10am any offers of help would be appreciated.

St George's Church Decorating

The church decorating for Anniversary and Harvest Service is to take place on either October 6th or October 7th, whichever dates are convenient for the volunteers, any gifts for the Harvest will be taken to the Shipston Food Bank after the service. Any offers of help providing finger food for the October 7th meet and greet would be appreciated, please let Doreen know if you can provide some refreshments. Thank you for all offers of help.

Doreen McCarroll Churchwarden.

Tredington and Blackwell WI

Next WI Meeting: Thursday 12th October 2023, **1.00pm**, Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP Speaker: Peter Cowley: *Dorothy Levitt – The Pioneering Lady Motorist, Motorboat Racer and Author* (OPEN MEETING – Guests £5. Soup/roll included, to assist catering, please notify attendance in advance). WI Annual Meeting: 9th November 2023, 1.00pm.

Community Quiz and Fish and Chip supper in the WI Hall, Tredington Friday 20th October 2023, 6.30pm. Cost: £12.50 (inc supper). To book, please contact Gill Goodlad, email: treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or text: 07789 810877, stating names of guests and any dietary requirements.

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. 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

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@tredeingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk

WI Community Film Night

Our next film screening in the Tredeington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredeington, 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@tredeingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or text/telephone: 07789 810877.

Craft and Chatter

Our next Craft and Chatter meetings are on Thursday 5th October 2023 and Thursday 2nd November in Tredeington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredeington, CV36 4NP, at 2.00pm. EVERYONE 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.

New! Chatter and Craft: From Monday 20th November 2023, due to popular demand, we will hold an *additional* meeting on the **third** Monday of every month, 2pm in the WI Hall, where we would like to build up a social group alongside our crafters – the emphasis will be more on Chatter than Craft! There is a small charge of £1 for tea, coffee and cake at our C&C meetings. Please contact Vanessa for details: 07818 599353 or email: vanessa@tredeingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk

Autumn Fashion Show with Number 1 of Shipston-on-Stour

On Thursday 26th October 2023, Tredeington and Blackwell WI are hosting a Fashion Show by Number One of Shipston on Stour. This will take place in Tredeington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredeington, CV36 4NP, commencing at 7.30pm. Cost: £15 (including a glass of fizz and canapes). To book, please contact Gill Goodlad, email: treasurer@tredeingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or text/telephone: 07789 810877.

Newbold and Tredington C of E school

The term started with brilliant sunshine and enthusiastic children and staff. It was wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and introduce ourselves to a few new faces too. The children are busy thinking about our big question this term "What does change look like?". After school clubs have also started and the children staying are trying hockey, cooking, curling, arts and crafts and football. We look forward to a busy autumn term.

Samantha Welsby, Headteacher

Saturday 14 October 10.00 to 12.30 Table Top Sale

We are organising a table top sale in the W.I. Hall, next to the Lion Pub, in Tredington . We will have antique items, previously loved items and brand new items for sale in aid of the R.N.L.I. all at very reasonable prices. Lovely glassware, Emma Bridgewater pottery, books, paintings, model traction engine kit, model painted soldiers, etc. a real assortment. No clothes or children's toys. Coffee, tea, biscuits served and bacon butties. We will have Lifeboat Christmas cards, calendars and other souvenirs. There will also be a raffle. Do come along, enjoy browsing on the stalls, chat to friends - it will be a good fun social morning and help raise money for our volunteer crews who risk their lives to save people in difficulties on the sea. If you would like to book a selling table, the cost is £10 and all the money you make is yours. Further details Jenny Plenderleith 664278.

Qigong, Breathwork, & Meditation Class

From Friday 20th October at 9.30, WI Hall Tredington. Explore ancient Chinese and Indian techniques that rejuvenate mind, body, and spirit. Join me for an experience that blends gentle movements, tranquil breathing, and mindful meditation.

Whether you're a beginner or seasoned practitioner, Qigong (pronounced Chee-Gong) has been shown to reduce stress, enhance energy levels, and improve overall well-being. Classes are open to all levels of experience (including none), and to all physical abilities, as exercises may be done standing or seated, and gentle options will be given for each exercise.

Absolute beginners welcome! Visit <https://breath-therapy.uk/events/> to secure your spot (spaces limited) or email alissa@breath-therapy.uk for more information.

Alissa Powell, Breath Therapist

Tredington and District Garden Club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 19th October, when we will have an interactive talk by David Cropp (retired RHS gardener and author) on "William Shakespeare: Gardener", exploring the gardens in his plays. The meeting will be at 7.30pm in the WI Hall; doors open at 7pm with the bar available until

until 7.30pm. Don't forget the free Bring & Share table for plants and garden & Share table for plants and garden equipment. We close at about 9pm with light refreshments. New members and guests are welcome. For more information, see our web-site: www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com
Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Tredington Art Club Exhibition Saturday 28th October

Due to the success of last year's exhibition we have decided to make it a yearly event! Please come along between 10.30am and 2.30pm to see our very varied style of paintings! Enjoy a cup of tea and biscuits free! We look forward to seeing you all again with many new works! Admission free.
Terri Smith

WHITCHURCH

Notes from a Small Church in a Field

In the medieval church, stained glass windows were considered 'poor people's Bibles'. The illiterate could read in the windows stories from the Old Testament -- Noah's ark, Cain and Abel, Abraham and Isaac -- that were frequently, in the great churches, set in parallel with episodes that they foreshadowed in the life of Christ. In our church, in the lower tracery lights of the east window, we can see glass that represents the four gospel writers: an angel for Matthew, Mark's winged lion, the ox for Luke and John's eagle. But then above them, in the top tracery, in the extreme left and right lights, we can see something comical. A face with a tongue sticking out. Are these green men, also called wood-woses? If so, they're part folklore story-telling that has been around for a long time. They symbolise seasonal renewal -- perhaps an apt image for ecological awareness today.

Carol Rutter, Churchwarden

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

The Bear Pit Theatre Company Proudly presents THE CHERRY ORCHARD

Anton Chekhov's classic costume drama. A comedic tale of love and loss. Directed by Colin Lewis Edwards. Tuesday October 24 – Saturday October 28, 7.30pm + 2.30pm Saturday matinee. Tickets £15 (£12) via TheBearPit.org.uk. Book now to avoid disappointment! The Bear Pit, Rother Street, Stratford upon Avon.
Wendy Nelson

An Invitation to Join Us for a Breakfast for Women Halford Bridge Inn, Saturday 11th November 9 for 9.15- 0.30am

It will be a pleasure and a privilege to welcome Lianne Kirkman to speak to us at Halford. Lianne has an amazing personal life and faith story to share with us, and is the Founding Trustee and CEO of Helping Hands Charity, with the main office situated in Leamington Spa: *'Extending a compassionate hand to those affected by the causes and effects of homelessness; such as vulnerability in housing, domestic abuse, addiction, isolation, mental health challenges, and poverty.'* To reserve a place for a delicious continental breakfast for £9 please contact: Liz Harvey on ma_harvey@hotmail.com 07914 02451 (please let me know of any allergies or gluten free).

Townsend Hall, Shipston-on-Stour: Spick and Span!

We've given the main hall floor a professional going over and it's come up a treat! Our stage lift, funded from proceeds from our jazz events is on its way. Our jazz programme continues and proceeds will continue to be targeted at the list of maintenance and improvements required. Next up is Chris Walker and The

Pedigree Jazz Band in their "Salute to Trad Jazz" on Friday 27th October. Tickets are available online at £12.50 from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, or from Clarke Electrical Services in town. That's not all, we have some fabulous regular hirers for clubs and events. You might still be able to get tickets for Cots-wold Events "Fab 4" on Saturday 7th October and if you like cinema, check out the Stour Valley Lions evenings. U3A put on some great talks if you need your braincell(s) exercised.

Haydn Ward, Townsend Hall Trustee

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Fully Licensed Bar

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o For online booking, visit ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, or
o Email / Phone David: ds@pinnegards.com; 07511-694733

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