



The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No 2 May 2023

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Service Rota May 2023

May	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
7th Easter 5		11.00am Morning Worship & Baptism	6.00pm Evensong (<i>1662</i>)	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship
14th Easter 6	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion (<i>1662</i>)		11.00am Holy Communion	
21st Easter 7 / Ascension		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (<i>1662</i>)
28th Pentecost	4.00pm Evening Worship (<i>1662</i>)	6.00pm Evensong (<i>1662</i>)	11.00am Morning Worship		11.00am Holy Communion	

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 *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:

Coronation Time!

Less than a year ago we were remembering back to 1953, before many of us were born, to the Queen's Coronation we celebrated the Jubilee. On 6 May we shall see King Charles crowned in Westminster Abbey and perhaps reflect on how the country has changed in the intervening 70 years.



as

The service of Coronation is very ancient, in essence going back to 978, over a thousand years. It is full of Christian symbolism but at its heart it is not about the pomp and pageantry, but the humble offering of an individual to rule in the service of the people and for their good, under God. There is something deeply poignant about this, a reminder that in the end the King is only a man, who cannot ever be fully ready for the task ahead – even if he has had longer to prepare for it than anyone else in history!

Charles has also had his life picked over and lived in the spotlight perhaps more than any other individual in history. Though the King no longer wields any direct power, he has influence in many ways in how he leads, what he advises, and in the values he champions. So he deserves our prayers as he prepares for the coronation, and we shall be praying for him especially on Sunday 30 April at our regular services at Preston-on-Stour (9.30am), Tredington (10.30am and Ilmington (11.00am). In the meantime here is one of the official prayers, which you might like to use:

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

New Service Patterns

As mentioned in last month's magazine, the rota for May shows some changes to the overall service pattern. Please note that all Sunday morning services at both Tredington and Ilmington will now start at 11.00am. Stretton's services are now usually at 9.30am on the first and third Sundays of the month only, and Whitchurch's morning services are at 9.30am on the first Sunday and 11.00am on the third Sunday of the month.

Welcome back!

We look forward to welcoming back Canon Bill Merrington, Rector of the parishes in the early 2000s, to the 11.00am service at Ilmington on 7 May to baptise some of his grandchildren.

From the Registers

Baptism

At Ilmington on 16 April: Freddie McMahon, aged 4 months.

Banns of Marriage

At Tredington on 16, 23, 30 April: Trevor Dengate and Kirstine McCallum of the parish of St Andrew's, Shottonery. (Marriage to take place at Tredington, 18 May.)

Weddings

At Ilmington on 22 April: Patrick Makosch and Alison Pearce.

At Tredington on 29 April: Hugo Lewis and Tiffany Lockett.

Funerals

At Ilmington on 12 April: Margaret Ramsay, aged 98, of Shipston Lodge (formerly of Peebles, Scotland).

Editor's Note

The deadline for copy for the June issue is 20 May. Copy to Susan Brock, Editor, E. s.brock9@btinternet.com, Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington, CV36 4LA. Enquiries about advertising to Tim seller: E. Tim.Seller@outlook.com, Long Barn, Back St., Ilmington, CV36 4LJ.

*The cover image was supplied by Fran Chapman of Ilmington. **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 for May

In May we see more spectacular wild flowers and blossom in our woodlands and meadows. Red Campion is often first to be seen in May, followed by Oxeye Daisy and Borage. There are also Foxgloves, Yellow Rattle, White Campion, Cow Parsley, Meadow Cranesbill, Purple Loosestrife, Red and White clover. And not forgetting the bluebell. Where to see these beautiful wildflowers? Loxley Church Meadows, Wellesbourne, Cornmill Meadows, Shipston, Flowers Wood, Ilmington, Hampton Wood and Meadow, Warwick for a start. As the year progresses, we will see other varieties that call these places home. God has given us such a rich variety of beautiful wild flowers with different colours, shapes and sizes for our enjoyment. Why not use part of your garden or encourage our local churches to use a small part of their churchyards to increase biodiversity by sowing some wildflower seeds. We can all play our part in helping our wildlife.

Gill

ILMINGTON

Ilmington St Mary's

Thank you to all those that donated to the lily appeal, it covered all of the wonderful flowers in church over Easter, and a huge thank you to the ladies that arranged them so beautifully! Any offers of help for flower arranging in church gratefully received, please contact Helen Patrick or Rachel Paton for details.

Helen Patrick.Churchwarden

Ilmington Children's Society Boxes

Grateful thanks to everyone who sent in their boxes or donations for our annual count. Your fantastic generosity means we have raised £409.00 towards the work of supporting disadvantaged children across the Midlands - an amazing amount- especially as six of our loyal supporters have recently left the village.

Rest assured that every penny will be well spent. On behalf of the Shipston Deanery Committee, thank you again.

Wendy Lewis Edwards

Ilmington Screen-on-the-Green: "Living"

Bill Nighy's compelling performance as a staid civil servant seeking true meaning and pleasure in his life at the eleventh hour, rightly earned him a best actor nomination at this year's Oscars. Set in postwar London, and with a screenplay by Kazuo Ishiguro, "**Living**" (rated 12) is a film that is both poignant and powerful in portraying one man's reckoning with mortality. Showing **Friday 26 May** at Ilmington Village Hall. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets in advance from the Village Shop, although some will be available on the door. Licensed bar and raffle.

Lis Ribbans

Ilmington Community Shop & Café: Coronation Fever!

We're planning a right royal weekend, from the Coronation itself to the celebrations that will follow. We will be staging a Street Party and BBQ on Sunday 7th May: please bring your own chairs for the long tables along Grump Street, or picnic blankets to spread on Upper Green. There will be ice creams, cakes and drinks to go with the bangers and burgers. Monday 8th May is The Big Help Out, a nationwide initiative to get people volunteering in their local area. We are seeking three teams of volunteers: one to build a new Coronation Terrace on the sunny side of the café (overseen by professionals)

another to Spruce Up the shop and café in a mammoth spring clean and a third to supply refreshments to all the workers. Call us on 01608 682838 to let us know you'll be joining in!

Ilmington Community Shop Committee

Ilmington Village Hall

ZUMBA - Get fit to music with Zumba Gold, classes changed to every Thursday starting at 09:15.

KURLING - Fun, fitness and friendly competition every Thursday starting at 2:30pm

TAI CHI - Gentle exercise with physical and mental health benefits, every Friday starting at 11:00m except for the last Friday of each month when it will start at 1:00pm. Can be done standing or sitting.

FLO SMITH - NOW AND THEN -If you think that you will have had enough of the Coronation coverage and activities by 7:00pm on the 6 May, this is just right for you. An evening of high quality entertainment filmed in our own village hall for national distribution. Doors open at 7:00pm in time to get a drink from the bar before the show starts at 7:30pm, tickets at £12 available from the Community Shop or on Eventbrite.

Chairperson: Bryan Clifford

Ilmington Wednesday Club

We held a lovely farewell lunch for Mary and Colin Waterman last week although Colin himself was sadly not able to attend. The large number of people who attended just showed how loved the couple are. They do not have a leaving date yet so there is plenty of time to wish them well.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 10th May** and there is a choice! Brian Meredith has volunteered to show his exhibition of the origins of the Stour Valley and Shipston in the **NEW Shipston Museum for the price of £1!** This offer is open to members first and then other villagers. We still have a few places left so if you are interested and have no mobility problems, then please give me a ring for details. Otherwise, the lounge in the Village Hall will be open at 2pm for those not so mobile with tea and cake plus a chance to peruse old photo albums of the Wednesday Club. What a treat!

Carole Clifford, Chairperson

PRESTON-on-STOUR

Coronation Celebrations: Sunday 7th May: Picnic on the Green

Please come and join us for our Preston style celebration at midday on the church green. You will hear the bells ringing from 11.30: time to assemble your picnic, rugs and chairs for an informal gathering. There will be a coronation quiz courtesy of Mick Jennings, live music and an open mike opportunity for any of you musicians out there and more. If the weather is against us we will be in the village hall.

Preston Village Hall

May Day - Monday May 1st, 2.30 from the hall car park:

Our 2023 May Queen will be ready to process up the street to be crowned up by the church, so be there to cheer her along with Donald McCombie and his traditional trusty Morris Band. Celebrate May Day with dancing at the May pole, homemade cakes, teas, beer or Pimms. There will be various stalls, including plants, white elephant and tombola and children's games, followed by the tug'o'war for all ages. The hall will be open for use of the facilities and to be used should it be wet.

Film Night - Friday 26th May, 7 for 7.30: This month's film will be 'Living' starring Bill Nighy, who plays a civil servant, overwhelmed at work and lonely at home. His life takes a heartbreaking turn when a medical diagnosis tells him his time is short. Influenced by a local decadent and a vibrant woman, he continues to search for meaning until a simple revelation gives him a purpose to create a legacy for the next generation.

Village BBQ - Sunday 2nd July: One for the calendar - more details to follow.

Margaret Brocklehurst

TREDINGTON with DARLINGSCOTT

Coronation Lunch Sunday 7 May at 12.30

Our Coronation Lunch will be held in St Gregory's Church where we have plenty of room to spread out, (and its weather proof). This lunch is open to everyone from Tredington and the local community - come along and join us for a cold buffet lunch - you really can have fun in a church. We ask you to write your name and phone number on a list just inside the church so we can cater for the right number attending and help us with the catering if you can. No set charge but we appreciate donations. Bring your own alcoholic drinks, soft

drinks provided. Further details Marilyn Payne 666206, Sarah Taylor 662782, Jenny Plenderleith 664278.
Jenny Plenderleith

Tredington & District Garden Club

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 18th May** in the WI Hall. Our speaker is Dr Mike Jones with an illustrated talk on **Flowering Plants of The Gambia**.

We open the bar at 7.00pm, with the meeting beginning at 7.30pm. The evening will include a raffle, free plants & gardening items donated by members, and light refreshments. Non members are welcome. For more information visit the website: www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com.
Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Tredington and Blackwell WI

The next WI Meeting will take place on Thursday 11th May 2023 at 3pm in the Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP. We are holding an Afternoon Tea to celebrate HM The King's Coronation. Our June Meeting will commence at **7pm** on Thursday 8th June 2023 in the Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP. Our talk, by Clemson Gems, will be on *Jewellery*. (Please note the change of time for our summer meetings).

Upcoming WI Community Events in the WI Hall, Tredington

Cream Tea: Saturday 17th June 2023, 2.30pm-4.00pm

Ladies' Evening: Wine and Cheese Evening: Friday 21st July 2023, 7.00-9.00pm

If you would like to attend any of our WI meetings, please contact the WI Secretary. For further details, please email: secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or telephone 01608 682102. Visitors are always welcome at our friendly and thriving WI. For further 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@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk

WI Community Film Night

Our next film screening in the Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP will be on Friday 2nd June 2023. Bar opens at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. It is a heart-warming British biographical comedy-drama with a superb British cast (Cert. 12A, 2021, running time 102 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

Due to Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall being used for the upcoming elections on Thursday 4th May 2023, the Craft and Chatter meeting has been cancelled on that date. The next Craft and Chatter meeting will be on Thursday 1st June 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

Patricia MacPherson, Secretary WI Tredington

St George Church Darlingscott

We have a number of books in the school room at Darlingscott Church, to see them please walk through the church, the school room door is by the organ, please look to see if there are any that you would like to read and if so please take some, if you would like to leave a donation, please do so in the donation box, or if you would like to please leave books that you have finished with, all donations go toward church funds. We also have cards with pictures of the church on for sale, these are placed by the visitors book on the left side as you enter the church, they were painted and donated to the church by a kind lady, and have been very popular.

Doreen McCarroll

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

Shipston Medical Centre 2023 Patient Meeting Tuesday 23rd May 2023

7.15 at Shipston Primary School CV36 4BT. An update on the range of services now offered by SMC and an opportunity to meet the Partners.

Kitty Little

Newbold Plant Sale – Saturday 27th May

Our annual Plant Sale takes place in St David's Church, Newbold on Stour 10.00 – 12.30pm. Plenty of coffee and cakes as well as thousands of plants. This is the 19th year and we have every expectation it will be as good as the previous sales. Contact: Gilly Marsden gillykm@yahoo.co.uk 01789 45916.

Gilly Marsden

Stour Singers present Handel's Messiah on Saturday 13th May, 7.30pm, at St Edmund's Church Shipston-on Stour

Conducted by Richard Emms, and accompanied by musicians from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, we are delighted to welcome professional soloists Natalie Montakhab (soprano), James Neville (countertenor), Matthew Minter (tenor) and William Burn (bass-baritone). For tickets go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/handels-messiah-tickets-591416612007> or purchase at the door. We do hope you can join us. *Gayle Burch, Coordinator, Stour Singers*

The House of Bread, Shipston

This Christian Retreat Centre, a beautiful converted mill, is situated in Burmington. It is overseen by Will and Ann Neale and Assistant Warden, John Clifford. Groups and individual guests come to have time on retreat – away from the busyness of life, to draw close to God and rest in quietness. **Guests** may use the lounges and grounds, and there are individual bedrooms for overnight stays with kitchens for self-catering. **Regular Events** include Guided Retreat Days, Retreat weeks, Prayer/

Reflection times, breakfasts for men each month and special days for women. **'Abiding'** is open to all visitors on the first Thursday and Friday morning each month with no booking required, from 9.30am. This is a very restful and peaceful morning open to all. Do call in to The House of Bread if you would like to find out more, or to contact www.thehouseofbread.org . Liz Harvey

Astronomical Society News

The Stratford upon Avon Astronomical Society meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm) at Alderminster Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners. The first Tuesday (2nd May) is a Club Night, the speaker on the third Tuesday (16th May) is due to be Dr Julie Wardlow from the University of Lancaster, with 'The hidden side of the universe – distant starbursts'. Speakers start promptly at 8pm. Club nights offer information on what to look out for each month and if it is clear we try observing nearby. There is no charge initially to come along and find out more, but if you do want to become a member the fee is JUST £15 A YEAR and free if you are in full time education. For details go to the website <http://www.astro.org.uk> or contact the Chairman John Waller john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188. Dave Benton

Townsend Hall, Shipston: On a Roll

It's been two sell-outs back-to-back for our Traditional Jazz events. It looks like the message is getting out there on just how good these events are! All proceeds go towards the many maintenance and improvement items for the hall. We love to see the hall being booked – our booking fees are very reasonable and proceeds also go back into the charity under which the hall operates. We have a flexible facility for any occasion, so please get in touch if you have a query: [in-fo@townsendhall.com](mailto:info@townsendhall.com), **07514-704057**. For our Trad Jazz, next up is Tad Newton's Jazz Friends performing 'Basin Street Blues to Harlem' Friday May 26th. It's going to be another good one! Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall to book a specific table & seats, or from Clarke Electrical Services in town for seating on the night. For more:

We love to hear about news and events going on outside the five Downs and Valley Parishes. We normally carry editorial free of charge but our Outside the Parishes section is becoming so popular that we are having to print extra pages and that costs money. So regretfully, from the June 2023 issue, we will charge a modest fee of £6 for articles in this section. Just send them in as usual to the Editor and we'll send you an invoice.

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OF THE MONTH

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