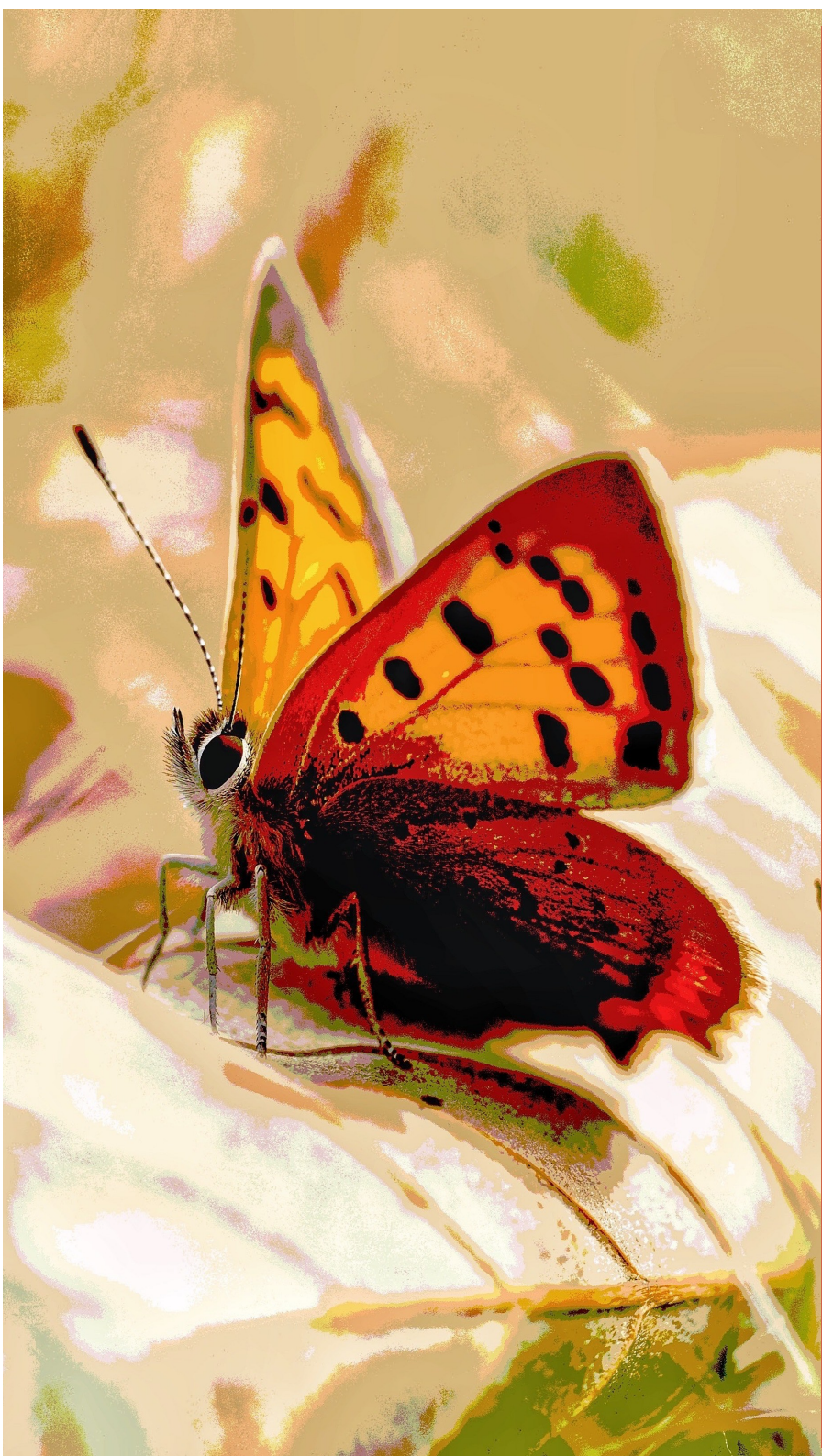


The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No 5 August 2023



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The Downs and Valley Churches Service Rota August 2023

August 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
6 th Trinity 9		11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	No service	No service	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship
13 th Trinity 10	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion (1662)		11.00am Holy Communion	
20 th Trinity 11		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)
27 th Trinity 12	4.00pm Evening Worship (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	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

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)

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

Looking Under the Bonnet?

'I didn't know what was wrong, only that the noise sounded expensive!' said a friend of mine when his car broke down. Most of us have little clue what happens under the bonnet of our cars, and we mostly ignore the mechanics of driving. We rely on others to know what goes on there and to get the car back on the road for us. And sometimes we're rather surprised at how much it costs for them to do so!

I sometimes wonder whether the church is a bit the same. Vicars asking for money used to be a staple part of British TV comedy, so I hesitate to bring the subject up, but it is important from time to time to be open about how our local churches are financed. To look under the bonnet, so to speak.

Barbara, my wife, recently sat on the train next to someone who had worked for the National Trust. Barbara mentioned that I was in charge of a group of ancient parish churches and they swapped stories about caring for historic buildings. 'So how much is the grant each church gets for the upkeep of its building every year?' asked her fellow-passenger. When she said that there was no grant, he was astonished.

In fact it is each church that is independently responsible for its own upkeep, insurance and other costs. These include a contribution to the 'Parish Share' which pays for clergy. For some time in our 'Downs and Valley Churches' group the costs have outstripped income, and the Pandemic had a very harsh effect on income. Gradually the gap between costs and income has widened and it is time for us to try to do something about this, before it is too late.

'But hang on!' I can hear you say, 'surely the Church of England is a very rich institution?' While it is true that the Church as a whole does sit on a great many valuable assets, the financial calculation of these will usually include many historic buildings which can't be sold (St Paul's Cathedral, anyone?!), and parcels of land which yield some income but can only be sold once. There was once a system of 'tithes', where either a tenth of produce, or later their monetary equivalent, was contributed by landowners to the local church, but that system became increasingly problematic and was finally brought to an end in the 1930s, since when there has been no state aid for the Church of England. All the funding for the local churches, both the buildings and clergy, comes from the local level.

I'll be writing a bit more about this in the Autumn, introducing some practical ways you can support your local church if you'd like to do so. In the meantime, there are Bank Account details elsewhere in the magazine which means that you can contribute, if you would like to - even small amounts are welcome. As someone used to say 'If you have been, thanks for listening', and looking briefly under the bonnet with me.

Harvest Festivals – Advance Warning!

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

Church Bank Account Details

Parish	A/c name	Sort Code	A/c number
St George's <u>Darlingscott</u>	<u>Darlingscott Church</u>	40-41-26	20277045
St Mary's <u>Ilmington</u>	<u>Ilmington PCC</u>	30-98-26	01704398
St Mary's <u>Preston-on-Stour</u>	<u>Preston-on-Stour PCC</u>	30-98-26	00209849
St Peter's <u>Stretton-on-Fosse</u>	<u>Stretton-on-Fosse PCC</u>	30-98-26	01704509
St Gregory's <u>Tredington</u>	<u>Tredington PCC</u>	40-41-26	80814687
St Mary's <u>Whitchurch</u>	<u>Whitchurch PCC</u>	40-43-19	80854433

From the Registers

Baptisms

At Ilmington, 30 July: Thomas Johnson-Gibbs, aged 3

Banns of Marriage

At Tredington, 2, 9, 16 July: Rory Pennington & Katherine Welch
(Marriage at Tredington 16 Sept 2023)

Weddings

At Ilmington, 14 July: Rebecca Foster & Simon Smith

Funerals/Interments of Ashes

At Ilmington, 7 July: Harry Purcell, aged 17, of Blackwell (burial after service at Chipping Campden)

At Ilmington, 19 July: David Evans, aged 74, of Ilmington

At Ilmington, 24 July: Jeff & Marie Marsden, formerly of Ilmington (interment of ashes)

Editor's Note

The deadline for copy for the September issue is 19 August 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 -August

About 97% of the Earth water is in the oceans, and they are part of the water cycle. On our Earth, Father God provided a way for salt to be removed from the oceans by heat evaporation. Little

droplets of water rise in the sky to form clouds. The wind blows the clouds over the land, and they drop their water as rain, sleet or snow for us, the vegetation and the rest of creation. nd the rest of creation. This water then flows back into our lakes and rivers and is carried back into the sea. We know this as the water cycle. Now isn't that amazing. Without this water cycle neither we nor the rest of creation could survive. In the Bible King Solomon and Job wrote about the water cycle long before it was fully understood by scientists in the 17th century. Now that is something to think about! *Gill*

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Bowls Club

Everyone is welcome to play bowls free of charge every Wednesday 2-3pm. No experience necessary. Just bring flat-soled shoes e.g. trainers. *Gregg Woodall*

Ilmington St Mary's Church

Saturday 2 September at 7:15pm Flora, Fauna, Fowl and Flood.

We're delighted to be hosting a free evening of classical music and jazz at St Mary's Church with the wonderful Charpentier Consort. Keep an eye on the church notice board, our Facebook page and Ilmington 20:20 for more details.

Calling All Cake-Makers

St Mary's will be manning its ever-popular cake stall at the Ilmington Show on Monday 28 August to raise funds to maintain our lovely church building. All donations of cakes, very gratefully received! You can drop cakes off at the stall in the morning, or we can arrange to collect them from you.

Queries about either of the above, please call Jane Downie on (01608) 682720. Thank you!

Ilmington Community Shop & Café: Dates for your mid-summer Diary

Tuesday 1st August: 2pm Book Club @thecafe chats about A Year on Our Farm by Matt Baker

Saturday 12th August: 10am to 2pm Marketplace @thecafe resumes with Gemma's Pet Services. A chance to meet Gemma and hear about her pet sitting, dog-walking business and range of natural animal treats

Friday 18th August: 6.30 for 7pm Our next long-table supper. Three course meal, wine and a hot drink for £20!

Wednesday 23rd August: 2pm Time for Knit and Natter @thecafe

Monday 28th August: 1pm Visit the Community Shop stall at the Ilmington Show and have a go at our Treasure Hunt. Prizes *will* be involved...

Ilmington Community Shop Committee

Ilmington Village Hall

Wellbeing Events: Zumba Gold, every Tuesday at 2:45pm; Indoor Curling, every Thursday at 2:30pm. Tai Chi will take a break for August but start again in September, every Friday at 11:15am except the last Friday of the month when it is at 1:00pm.

Folk Concert by Janice and Jon Burns - 8 September:

"Janice and Jon are both delightful singers with wonderfully musical voices. Their performances of traditional folk songs have a pleasing authenticity and they make delicious harmonies. They are also both fine instrumentalists of great skill and talent. Any appearance of theirs in a folk club or on the concert platform will guarantee you an experience you'll remember. They are also two of the very nicest people you could wish to meet!" – Sandra Kerr

Bryan Clifford, Chair, Ilmington Village Hall Committee

Wednesday Club Next Meeting: August 9th

On our Butterfly Walk at Blackberry Farm, farmer Richard Grey proved to be as interesting as ever; in fact, more interesting than the butterflies judging by my ladies faces! We learnt more facts, saw more butterflies this year and enjoyed his generous hospitality. Thank you again Richard.

Thanks to Martin Taylor, our next meeting will be held at the Manor House on August 9th. We will meet at 2pm in the Music Room with lovely cake, tea, raffle and a musician!! Hurray!

August proves to be a popular month for birthdays. We start with Margaret Goldsmith on 5th (although not in the village, she can't be forgotten), Phillip Patton on 10th, Tony Wilkins on 16th and last but not least, Irene Sabin on 21st. Bob Johnson (also known as Glyn) is in the rehabilitation hospital on Heathcote Lane in Warwick in case anyone would like to send good wishes or visit. Another point of interest, Terry Hall who died last year would have been 100 on 16th July.

One last thing; please come and support our Wednesday Club stalls at the Ilmington Show on 28th August!

Carole Clifford, Chair

Ilmington Show: Bank Monday 28 August 1-5pm

It's nearly here! Make sure the date is in your diary and get ready for a brilliant afternoon of fun for the family (and dogs)! Help us to raise money for village good works as well as our traditional charities, Shipston Home Nursing and Warwickshire Air Ambulance. This year we have added Myton Hospice. That's why we need to raise even more money than last year! There will be a children's jungle assault course, dinosaur theatrics, a puppeteer and storyteller, bouncy castles, morris dancers, a concert band, a vintage, classic and super-car display ... topped off with a thrilling BMX bike display in the main ring as well as a fun dog show (entry on the day). And don't forget the Annual Show of flowers, fruit, vegetables, cookery and crafts. There are trophies to be won. Pick up a schedule and an entry form from the Community shop.

Karen Peachey, Ilmington Show Committee

PRESTON-ON-STOUR

Preston Village Hall

_Village BBQ: Many thanks to all who helped and attended our summer bbq. The weather could have been a little kinder but it didn't rain and we all enjoyed very well cooked meats and vegetable kebabs accompanied by delicious home made salads.

Film Nights: We are having a break for August and September due to holiday absences but hope to be back in our regular last Friday of the month slot in October.

Harvest Supper: The next village hall event will be the Harvest Supper held in October. We haven't fixed a date yet so watch this space and book your tickets as soon as you can.

Margaret Brocklehurst

STRETTON-ON-FOSSE

Summer Cream Teas at Stretton Village Hall

3.30pm on Sunday August 20th and Sunday September 17th . Come for scones, cream, cake, and company!

Geri Hunting

TREDINGTON with DARLINGSCOTT

St George Church Darlingscott

It is 150 years since St George Church at Darlingscott opened and we would like to invite everyone to join us at an evening of Celebration on Saturday October 7th and also to the Harvest service following day October 8th at 11am. Watch this space for more information, times and celebration details will be given in the September magazine and also listed on the Church Gate. Please come and join the villagers to celebrate 150 years of our church.

Doreen McCarroll, Churchwarden on behalf of Management Committee.

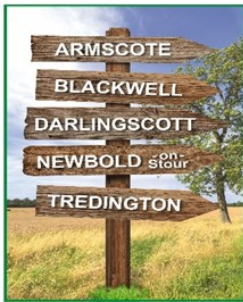
Lilian Mary Holtham

It is with great sadness that we lost Mary to cancer on the 14 June. A memorial service and a thanksgiving for her life will be held in St Gregory's Church on Sunday 13 August at 2.00p.m. There will be a tea afterwards in the WI Hall. Mary was a loyal supporter of the Women's Institute and was a member and treasurer for many years. She will be sadly missed.

Jenny Plenderleith

Neighbourhood Plan: the Epilogue

The Tredington Parish Neighbourhood Plan was officially 'made' at the District Council meeting on 10th July. Thank you to all who took the trouble to go out and vote. Turnout was 20%, quite high for a Neighbourhood Plan referendum. 246 voted 'yes' 31 voted 'no'. The steering group has several people at Stratford District Council to thank for their guidance and support, particularly Rachel Blanchard and Louisa Slator.



We would also like to thank our Planning Consultants Neil and Jan at Avon Planning Services and, last but certainly not least, Locality: a public body, sponsored by Government, that provides financial support for communities wishing to create a Neighbourhood Plan. Without the substantial financial and technical backing of Locality, and their funding of the site assessors Aecom, we could not have even started.

We hope there are no 'slaves' in the Parish as there were in 1086 as defined in the Domesday Book. Nearly 1,000 years

later we have tried to tell the story of the Parish. Among other things, we hope the plan will provide a detailed guide to any developer seeking to build in the Parish.

And thanks to the team that stayed the course: John Gimblett, Sally Ward, Julie Murphy, Sarah Tolliday and Nigel Willis.

Deborah Williams

Tredington & District Garden Club

We do not meet in August. The next meeting is on Thursday 21st September. For more information visit the website: www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com

Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Tredington and Blackwell WI

The next WI Meeting will be on Thursday 13th August 2023 in Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP, commencing at 7.00pm. There has been a change to the programme due to the unavailability of the booked speaker. A social event will now take place. Our WI meeting on 14th September 2023 at 7.00pm is OPEN TO ALL and will be Mike McCarthy from Shipston Area Flood Action Group talking about *Local Flood Defences*. 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>.

Patricia Macpherson, WI Secretary

'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 4th August 2023. Bar opens at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. It is a touching British drama with a superb British cast (Cert. PG, 2005), running time 108 minutes, plus interval with bar and ice creams). Booking is now open. For more details of our films, to join the email list or to book places, please contact Gill by email: treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or text: 07789 810877.

Craft and Chatter

Our next two Craft and Chatter meetings will be on Thursday 3rd August 2023 and Thursday 7th September 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. For further details, please contact Vanessa on 07818 599353 or email vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk.

Lectio 365

This app is free and a great resource for a personal Christian daily devotional.

It can be read, or listened to, with input from various contributors.

Each week a theme or practice with a leader from the 24-7 movement is explored through the app for 10 minutes every morning, using the outline of P.R.A.Y.

P - PAUSE to be still

R - REJOICE with a Psalm and REFLECT on the Bible

A - ASK God to help us and others, and

Y - YIELD to His will in our lives

Night Prayers: process the day and prepare to sleep drawing from an ancient Christian practice called the Examen to help us to reflect and rest each evening.

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These daily devotions are inspired by Lectio Divina; a way of meditating on the Bible that's been used by Christians for centuries. Each day we read the same passage twice and come expectant that God will speak through it. 24-7 started in 1999, when a simple, student-led prayer vigil suddenly went viral. Today 24-7 is an international interdenominational movement of prayer, mission and justice, a non-stop Christian prayer meeting that has continued for every minute of this century so far, in over half the countries on Earth.

Liz Harvey

WHITCHURCH

St Mary's Whitchurch

Thanks to everyone who made the church fete on 1 July such a success, most particularly: Will and Bidy James for hosting the event in Whitchurch Farm orchard; Donald McCombie for providing music and dancing with not one but two Morris sides; Bidy's redoubtable organising team (you know who you are!); everyone who contributed stuff for the stalls, from handsome raffle prizes to rhubarb and new laid eggs; everyone who 'manned' the stalls on the day; and finally everyone who came, played skittles, ate cakes and drank tea, picked up a book or a white elephant, took a chance on the tombola, scooped up punnets of strawberries, and generally enjoyed some summer fun. For those of you who are curious: the lamb's name is 'Etta'. *Carol Rutter, Churchwarden*

Notes from a Small Church in a Field

It's sometimes supposed, since infant mortality was so common, that parents in the past didn't notice the death of children. Not so. In the 17th century Ben Jonson, praying his lost son would 'rest in soft peace', called him his 'best piece of poetry'. William Shakespeare, after his boy Hamnet died, wrote a whole play that imagined lost children miraculously restored to life. Later churchyard history tells the same story. In our churchyard, infants weren't usually memorialised with marked graves -- but it's clear their lives were remembered. When Elizabeth Compton died aged 80 in 1860, her headstone remembered 'two children who died young', perhaps sixty years earlier. The headstone of John and Rynah Taylor, who died within a year of each other, recorded their son Benjamin, dead twenty-five years before. Burying their daughter Miriam in 1903, the Horsemans inscribed her headstone also with her 10-month-old brother's name, deceased 1888. These lives may have been brief. But they weren't forgotten.

Carol Rutter, Churchwarden

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

Daytime Free Alpha Course Coming to Halford Bridge Inn

Starting on 20th September 2023 at 1.30pm finishing around 2.45pm. Are you curious about God? Do you have questions? All questions are welcome! This course is especially designed for those with no faith, those seeking to know more about faith and to cover the basics of what we believe. Come for a tea/coffee and cake and a warm welcome. Contact: ma_harvey@hotmail.com to register your interest.
Liz Harvey

Shipston Home Nursing Golf Day

Polish those clubs and shine your golf shoes, the Shipston Home Nursing Golf Day is back, on Friday 15th September at Feldon Valley Golf Club in Brailes. The day begins with coffee and bacon rolls on arrival, followed by 18 holes with a 'Texas Scramble' start. There will also be on course refreshments, a two-course lunch, presentations, prizes and an auction. All proceeds come to Shipston Home hospice care at home, caring for people with life-limiting illnesses in Shipston, Wellesbourne, Kineton and surrounding villages and offering support to their families and carers. Teams of four: £65 per person (or £40 per person for Feldon Valley members). For local businesses interested in supporting the event, there are several sponsorship opportunities available. Donations to the auction would also be gratefully appreciated. For more information, please visit: www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk/events or email fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk.

Kate Bomford, Fundraising and Communications Manager

Stained Glass at St David's, Newbold on Stour

We are joining the #stainedglasssummer event during July and August. We have some remarkable modern and Victorian stained glass to admire. We have also made a picture quiz for all the family to enjoy as well as providing the necessaries materials for you to crate your own stained glass window drawings. Something to do on a rainy day? The church is open daily between 9.30 and 5pm.

Gilly Marsden

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on behalf of **Ilmington Parish Council**.

The Tennis club welcomes players of all ages and levels of play.

Coaching including taster sessions are available.

Full information and contact details on **IMSF's** website.

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