

**THE SIX PARISHES  
MAGAZINE**



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

**No. 274**

**December 2022**

# THE HOWARD ARMS ILMINGTON



## TUESDAY PIE NIGHT NOVEMBER TO MARCH

### BAR OPENING TIMES

MONDAY TO SATURDAY : 11AM – 11PM  
SUNDAY 12PM – 10.30PM

### FOOD SERVING TIMES

#### DAYTIME:

MONDAY TO SATURDAY : 12PM – 2.30PM

#### EVENING:

MONDAY TO THURSDAY : 6PM – 9PM  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY : 6PM – 9.30PM  
SUNDAY & BANK HOLIDAYS  
12PM – 7.30PM

## CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

25TH DECEMBER 11AM-4PM

26TH DECEMBER 11AM-10PM

## NEW YEAR'S EVE DISCO FROM 9PM

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE CALL 01608 682226

OR

EMAIL: [INFO@HOWARDARMS.COM](mailto:INFO@HOWARDARMS.COM)

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

**Richard Cooke, Rector, writes:  
Christmas is Coming!**

'It's your busy time coming up!' people say knowingly to us clergy, any time from mid-September onwards. And it is – Christmas is a wonderful time of year from my point of view, but there's no denying that there's a lot going on. The statistics show that despite the undeniable drop in the numbers who regularly go to church on a Sunday, the Christmas season rather bucks the trend.

Between 2010 and 2019, a fairly consistent two and a half million people or so were part of a church service at Christmas. (The figures tended to go up when Christmas was on a Saturday, Sunday or Monday, and drop a little when it's midweek.) It's great to see so many people!

Then we had Covid, and you don't need me to remind you how complicated Christmas in the last two years has been.

But this year, we hope, we will be returning to something like normal. Across our six churches there are lots of opportunities to sing carols, hear the old stories, and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the light in the darkness, the hope of the world. Whatever faith – or lack of it – you may have, you'll find a warm welcome in the churches, and what better way to give thanks for coming through the last two years, and seek hope for the years that lie ahead? The heart of Christian faith is that the light of hope shines in the darkness and that nothing, as John's Gospel puts it, 'can never put it out.' Whether that's your strong belief, as it is mine, or whether it's something you'd like to believe, I hope you'll be part of this year's Christmas celebrations in our churches in some way. In the original Christmas story, shepherds, kings, and everyone in between was welcome at the manger. They still are!

**Christmas Services around the Churches**

**Carol services**

Sunday 18 December (Ilmington)	10.30am (Tredington), 4.00pm (Darlingscott), 6.00pm
Weds 21 Dec	7.00pm (Whitchurch)
Christmas Eve	3.00pm (Ilmington - Christingle), 4.30pm (Stretton), 6.30pm (Preston)

**Christmas Communions**

Christmas Eve	9.00pm (Whitchurch), 11.00pm (Ilmington)
Christmas Day	9.30am (Ilmington), 9.30am (Preston), 10.30am (Tredington)

**Anthony Nicholl**

It's with great sadness that we learned of the death of His Honour Anthony Nicholl, who was buried at Tredington on 21 November. Anthony had had a career in the law, and retired some years ago as a Judge. He was also a Reader in the Church of England, one of the first to be licensed in Coventry's New Cathedral in the early 1960s. He was well-known across the parishes, taking services and preaching. Recent ill-health meant that he had had to retire from active ministry, but he remained part of Tredington's congregation, as gentle and courteous as ever and with a deep and strong faith in Jesus Christ. He had spent his early years in Ilmington and, despite moving away at times, always seemed to return to this part of Warwickshire. He will be missed.

**The Church of England continues to produce services that are free to hear on the telephone simply dial 0800 804 8044. It is easiest accessed through the Church of England "a church near you" site <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>, where each church has its own page. Have a look! It is regularly updated in these changing times. There are lots of useful links to see!**

## From the Registers

### **Baptisms:**

**Toby Benjamin Evans** at St Gregory's Tredington, 6 November.

### **Banns of Marriage:**

At Ilmington (6, 13, 20 November): **Michael James Leafe** and **Ciara Elizabeth Kavanagh** of the parish of St Mary's Hornsey Rise, London (wedding at Ilmington on 19 December).

### **Funerals:**

At Ilmington, 1 November: **John Joseph Sabin**, aged 85 years.

At Tredington, 21 November: **Anthony John David Nicholl**, aged 87 years.

## Nature Notes December 2022

The carol The Holly and The Ivy remind us that holly is associated with Christmas. The Holly has tough spiny leaves deterring browsing animals. The scarlet berries attracting thrushes, blackbirds, fieldfares and redwings in winter. The leaves provide food for insects. Mostly, if there are berries it is a female plant and without it is male, there are always exceptions!! Christians adopted the holly at Christmas as a reminder that Jesus the Son of God not only came to be with us, but to die for our sins as the perfect sacrifice. When we believe in Him, confess our sins to God and invite Jesus to come into our lives we will not perish but go to be with Him forever. The evergreen holly representing the eternal life offered to us, the berries His blood shed for us and the sharp leaves representing the crown of thorns put on Jesus head prior to the crucifixion. As another Christmas carol says what can I give Him? Give my heart.

### Six Parishes Christmas Shoebox Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone who filled a festive shoebox for a family or elderly person living in Eastern Europe. We have 117 boxes en route to Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova - and an amazing £380 in donations - which will enable Link to Hope, our charity, to buy items in bulk and fill boxes on your behalf. Special thanks to our village collectors, Ilmington School, the ladies of Lower Quinton and those who knitted gloves, hats and scarves. Your generosity and support is heart-warming, particularly at a time of economic uncertainty here at home. May you all have a blessed Christmas, knowing you have brought joy to others less fortunate, living so far away. Wendy Lewis Edwards, Appeal Coordinator.

## **WHITCHURCH**

### St Mary's Whitchurch

All hands to the rakes, secateurs and ivy saws! Please join a parish work party to put the churchyard to bed for the winter. 10.00am - 1pm on Saturday 10 December 2022 (arrive any time to suit). Bring stout boots, gloves and your garden tool of choice. All ivy removed from walls is yours to take home for Christmas decorations!

### Notes from a Small Church in a Field

Stewards of our ancient church buildings face perennial challenges. We at Whitchurch currently have a partly collapsed boundary wall and glass fallen from our east window to deal with. But that is nothing compared to what faced Harvey Bloom, appointed rector in 1896, when he arrived 'to take up the cure of souls' in a

church 'marooned in the centre of the most unpleasant fields'. That's how his daughter, Ursula remembered it in the memorial she wrote, *The Changed illage*, in 1945. She also remembered that 'when we got to Whitchurch, the church itself was in a parlous state'. The congregation were used to attending service in the 'shakey gallery' at the west end that, during the week, was a hen roost. Over the next several issues of our parish magazine, we'll feature extracts from Ursula Bloom's memoir, to show how an earlier steward dedicated to the life of a small church in a field ensured its survival.

## **PRESTON-ON-STOUR**

### **Preston Village Hall**

**Saturday 4th February 2023 - The Annual Preston Quiz**

A date for your diaries, calling all those teams of four who enjoy being bombarded by sweets in the warm up rounds even if they can't answer the questions. Further information to follow.

## **ILMINGTON**

### **The Coven**

May your Christmas be sublime, and the New Year a happy time! The Coven now will take a pause to prepare for Santa Claus.

### **Wednesday Club Christmas Party Wednesday 14th December at 1pm**

Firstly, a very big thank you to Susan Brock for an excellent presentation on the right reverend Julian Charles Young! He was an excellent man who saved the community in a place called Ilmington! Our next meeting will be the annual Christmas party on 14th December at 1pm. As usual it will be only £5 per member ( subsidised from our funds) and members need to bring a good raffle prize. If you would like a drink with your meal, then please do bring one. It will be lovely to celebrate Christmas again at the proper time with all our members. Please contact me if your name is not on our list. For birthdays, Sheila Ribbans has the only birthday in December so we wish her a very happy birthday on 13th. In case there isn't another chance, I would like to wish everyone (members and others!!!) a COVID free, happy Christmas!

### **House sitting in or around Ilmington**

Having been a regular visitor to the Cotswolds since I emigrated to Australia from England in 1974, where I was born and raised, (and visited Ilmington this summer, which I loved) I am about to retire from full-time legal practice, and am hoping to spend the summer in Ilmington, or nearby, between mid June and the end of September, (except the end of July/early August). If you are planning to be away during that period and would like someone to look after your home for a week or more I would be delighted to hear from you. Alternatively if you have an unused self-contained granny flat or annex you would like to let out I would also be delighted to hear from you. Please contact me at [stuart.hetherington@cbp.com.au](mailto:stuart.hetherington@cbp.com.au).

### **Ilmington Village Hall - Warm Hub**

The Village Hall will be operating a 'warm hub' from the beginning of December to the end of March. This will provide an opportunity for tea, coffee and cake, and chat with village friends in the lounge area. The first meeting will be held on Monday 5th December between 1:00 and 3:00pm when we also expect to have a speaker giving helpful advice on the use of energy in the home. Please come along, it's free of charge but if you would like to make a small contribution to the cost, it would be welcome.

## **Ilmington Parish Council News**

Please note that Ilmington Parish Council has a new website at [www.ilmington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ilmington-pc.gov.uk). Information about upcoming meetings is also published on the noticeboards on Upper and Lower Green. Grace's Playground is an asset to our village. Generous donations made to Grace's Fund resulted in more equipment than usual for a village our size. Much of that the original and the newer wooden equipment are near the end of its life and need repair or replacement. This year the Parish Council has spent £3,500 maintaining the playground but is struggling to maintain it all. It plans to spend another £20,000 on replacements for popular equipment. However, to replace everything will cost over £150,000, well outside its resources. Last year the council's income from Council Tax was £20,969. Half is committed to the costs of running the council and discharging its obligations. A quarter is spent on mowing, leaving £5k for other purposes. In short, the council does not have the financial resources to maintain/replace all the Playground equipment. The council will shortly seek residents' views as to how it should respond to this challenge by way of a short questionnaire. Please make your view known by returning it.

## **Dogs and St Mary's Churchyard**

The close relatives of many who live away from Ilmington are buried in the churchyard of St Mary's. Those walking the path alongside the church often see small parties making a pilgrimage to attend the graves of their loved ones. A sad, but hopefully, uplifting episode of remembrance. Regrettably, the Parish Council has again been advised that this experience is often marred by the presence of dog faeces on paths and even on the graves themselves. The area is unfenced, so dogs roaming free have every opportunity to do whatever they consider necessary with the unfortunate results described above. The Parish Council cordially requests the minority of dog owners that do so to desist from allowing their dogs to roam unsupervised and to keep their dogs under close supervision, preferably on the lead, in the proximity of the burial grounds. Please give others the respect that you would wish for yourselves. Hopefully, a positive reaction to this request will result in an improving perception our visitors to our village.

## **Ilmington CofE Primary School**

This term has been very busy at Ilmington School. There is always so much learning to do and children have been working very hard. We enjoyed celebrating Harvest and placing painted stones on the war memorial on Remembrance Day. We have also restarted our worship times together in the church, Worship Wednesday, led by Richard Cooke. Christmas is fast approaching and currently all our children are involved in preparations for their respective plays, Keystage 1 preparing for their Nativity, Shine Star Shine and Keystage 2 rehearsing hard for Peter Pan. This is always such an exciting time in primary schools as children discover or rediscover the meaning of Christmas and celebrate together. So as we come to the end of this year and a new one arrives we wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year and look forward to all that this season brings.

## **TREDINGTON**

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

Following completion of the 'Regulation 16' Consultation, the Tredington Parish Neighbourhood Plan is currently being examined by Dr Louise Brooke-Smith OBE FRICS MRTPI. Dr Brooke-Smith is International Development & Strategic Planning Advisor and Non-Executive Director of Consilio Strategic Consultancy Ltd. We were presented with a choice of three examiners. Apart from being very highly qualified Dr Brooke-Smith's CV is extremely impressive. She has examined many Neighbourhood Plans in the area, including Stratford-on-Avon. We believe we have made a good choice and now await her comments.

### **Tredington Garden Club**

There will be no meeting in December. Our next meeting will be the Members' Lunch on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 12.30 for 1.00pm, more details to follow and will be posted on the website: [www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com](http://www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com).

### **Tredington and Blackwell WI**

The next WI Meeting will take place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in the Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP, commencing at 1pm, when our speaker will be Jo Golby whose talk is entitled *Christmas True Victorian Style*. We shall also have a 'bring and share' Christmas lunch. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 commencing at 1pm with delicious soup and a roll. Our speaker will be Tadge Sabatowski who will be informing us about his involvement with the *Ekica Trust - School and Orphanage in Tanzania*. If you would like to attend any WI meeting, please contact Patricia Macpherson, Secretary, for further details. Telephone 01608 682102 or email [secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk](mailto:secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk). Visitors are always welcome at this friendly WI. We continue working to reduce isolation in the community. For further information, 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](mailto:secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk)

### **WI Community Film Night**

Our next film screening in the WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP will be on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022. Bar opens at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. The film is a British comedy film set in Cornwall, (Cert 15, 93 minutes, plus interval with bar and ice creams). Booking is now open. For more details of the film, to join the email list or to book places, please contact Gill, either email [treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk) or text 07789810877. Keep the date: WI Community Film Night on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023.

### **Craft and Chatter**

Our next Craft and Chatter meetings will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 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 ring Trish 01789 740185.

	<b>St George's Darlingscott</b>	<b>St Mary's Imlington</b>	<b>St Mary's Preston-on-Stour</b>	<b>St Peter's Stretton-on-Fosse</b>	<b>St Gregory's Tredington</b>	<b>St Mary's Whitchurch</b>
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>		Holy Communion & Baptism 11.00am	Evensong (1662)	Holy Communion 9.00am	Family Service 10.30am	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Morning Worship 11.00am	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am	Family Service 11.00am	Holy Communion2 10.30am	
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Carol service 4.00pm	Carol service 6.00pm			Carol Service 10.30am	
<b>Weds 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>						Carol Service 7.00pm
<b>24<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Eve</b>		Christingle 3.00pm Christmas Night Communion 11.00pm	Carol Service 6.30pm	Carol Service 4.30pm		Christmas Night Communion (1662) 9.00pm
<b>25<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Day</b>		Christmas Communion (1662) 9.30am	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am		Christmas Communion 10.30am	

**Ministers:**

Rector: The Revd Canon Dr Richard Cooke 07952 544820 (mobile)

or 01608 544821 (landline) or [Richard.Cooke@Imlington@Outlook.com](mailto:Richard.Cooke@Imlington@Outlook.com)

Hon. Assistant Minister: The Revd Dr Tim Seller 01608 682244 (landline)

Reader: Ros Wakefield 01608 682146 (landline)

**Churchwardens:**

Tredington *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*

Darlingscott Doreen McCarroll 01608 682949 (landline)

Imlington 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.

Enquiries about advertising in the magazine to Tim Seller: E: [tim.seller@outlook.com](mailto:tim.seller@outlook.com); T: 01608 682244; Long Barn, Back St., Imlington, CV36 4LJ. Deadline for the January 2023 issue is **10 December**. Copy to Susan Brock, Editor: E: [s.brock9@btinternet.com](mailto:s.brock9@btinternet.com); T: 01608 682409; Daisy Cottage, Front St., Imlington, CV36 4LA.





### **Newbold and Tredington CoFE Primary School**

Sapphire Class shared their learning in an assembly with parents/carers invited. Their topic this term has been all about castles and the civil war. Children read out dragon poems and descriptions, reenacted the Gunpowder Plot and told everyone why castles were built and what features they had to prevent them from being attacked. Ruby Class also had a turn at sharing their learning. They sang us a song, showed us some art based on Pieter Bruegel's painting called 'Children's Games.' We heard instructions telling us how to play games and saw some impressive sliding mechanisms. The children took part in Sports for Schools circuit exercises which was a lot of fun. They asked others to sponsor them to complete the activities to raise money for the school and win prizes. Olympic athlete Lucy Renshall held an assembly where the children were invited to ask her questions about her sport which was very inspiring. If you have a child due to start in Reception in September 2023, you can now apply for a place using the Warwickshire application process. Please contact the school on 01608 661568 if you missed our open day and would like to arrange a visit.

### **BLACKWELL**

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

Colette Nock and Hazel Sutherst 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. The charity continues to provide funds to run meetings & outings for the Stroke group, helps in maintaining the equipment needed for our local paramedics & of course the ongoing support & fight for our proposed new community hospital, the Ellen Badger. Work has already started in the demolition of the old EBH. If you wish to pay a subscription by direct debit please call Colette on 682272. We wish everyone a happy 2023. Many thanks.

### **DARLINGSCOTT**

#### **St George Darlingscott**

Carol service is on Sunday December 18th at 4pm. we shall decorate the church previous day Saturday December 17th, anyone who would like to join us would be very welcome, whatever time suits you, any greenery or flowers can be left in church. After the Carol service on Sunday we normally serve refreshments we would be grateful if congregation members could provide some finger food, I will make sure that there are some sweets available for the children, even the young at heart.

### **STRETTON-ON-FOSSE**

#### **Children in Need Fundraising**

I gave £28 to Children in Need from the sale of walnuts in the village. Thanks to everyone who bought them. Annette

### **OUTSIDE THE PARISHES**

#### **Townsend Hall Shipston: The Christmas Cracker!**

We're really looking forward to welcoming the Carl Sinclair Quartet to the hall on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> for our Christmas Cracker! Don't miss this one! Carl is a professional pianist, vocalist and entertainer with songs for everyone that'll get you dancing and singing along. Tickets are £12.50 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall), where you can bag your own table and seating, or from Clarke Electrical Services in town. To whet your appetite, check out his website: [www.carlsinclair.com](http://www.carlsinclair.com). In other news, we have a couple of open roles available: one is for a cleaner and the other for a hall bookings administrator. Hours

are flexible and a negotiated remuneration package is available. For applications, or to find out more, contact David Squires, Chair/rustee, Townsend Hall Management Committee, 52 Sheep Street, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4AE, [ds@pinnegards.com](mailto:ds@pinnegards.com). Check out [www.townsendhall.co.uk](http://www.townsendhall.co.uk) for other events we have on and for information on our clubs / sports.

**Stour Singers Concert, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm,  
St Edmunds Church, Shipston-on-Stour**

Stour Singers, conducted by Richard Emms and accompanied by musicians from the Birmingham Conservatoire, present **Telemann's Magnificat in C and Haydn's St Nicholas Mass**, with carols for all. With Brittany King (soprano), Tom Lilburn (countertenor), Julian Stocker (tenor), Julian Debreuil (bass baritone) and James Birchall (bass baritone). Tickets are £12.50 (accompanied children go free) and are available from choir members, from **A Clarke Electrical Services** in Shipston, or on the door. For more information on the programme, composers and soloists please see our website [www.stoursingers.org.uk](http://www.stoursingers.org.uk).

**Stratford-upon-Avon Choral Society presents Handel's Messiah**

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Old Town, Stratford. Music Director Oliver Neal Parker will conduct the Choir, professional soloists - Fleur Moore-Bridger soprano, Liz Irvine alto, Matthew Keighley tenor, Eugene Dillon Hooper bass - and the Regency Sinfonia. Douglas Keilitz will play the continuo. For many Handel's Messiah heralds the start of the Christmas season, with its familiar, evocative, splendid music, which choirs love to sing. Tickets for December 17th Messiah concert, £20 (adults) or £10 (students) from choir members, Website [www.stratfordchoral.org.uk](http://www.stratfordchoral.org.uk) , phone 01789 750704 or at the door on the night if seats available.

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- o Email / Phone David: [ds@pinnegards.com](mailto:ds@pinnegards.com); 07511-694733

# Whitchurch Farm Turkeys



Traditionally reared free range bronze Christmas turkeys which are slow matured and hand plucked.

This year we also have home reared beef & lamb available.

To place an order & find out more contact us on:

Phone: 01789450359 / Email: [William.james88@aim.com](mailto:William.james88@aim.com)

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