

THE SIX PARISHES MAGAZINE



February

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

No. 276

February 2023

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Richard Cooke, Rector, writes:

Some changes are afoot with the Six Parishes Magazine, as we seek to expand it and develop it. Although at heart it is the Magazine of the six churches of Preston-on-Stour, Whitchurch, Ilmington, Tredington, Darlingscott and Stretton-on-Fosse, it's also a valuable resource for the wider village communities and I was really pleased, when I arrived in the parishes a year ago, to see how well-used and appreciated it is. I'm very grateful to Susan Brock, who edits the magazine, and Tim Seller, who looks after the finances. There will be room for more news from the villages and more advertising in the new format, so do get in touch if you'd like to have some space.

One of the things to look out for in the new format is a change of name. As one or two people have pointed out, 'Six Parishes' isn't quite accurate! There are actually five ecclesiastical parishes, relating to the six churches I listed above, because Tredington and Darlingscott are a single parish with two church buildings. Until Atherstone church was closed some decades ago, Atherstone would have been the sixth parish but it's now amalgamated with Preston. And while we're checking the names, you'll see that, strictly speaking, Stretton-on-Fosse is linked with Ditchford, but there has been no church at Ditchford since the 17th Century! All in all, it seemed best to go with a new name for the magazine!

During the Pandemic 'The Fosseway Six' was proposed for the parishes, but it doesn't really seem to have caught on, so we're going with the 'Downs and Valley Churches' instead. Ilmington and Crimscoote Downs, and the Stour Valley, are the features of the landscape that unite all of the villages. (If you're not sure why hills are called 'Downs' - surely they're 'ups'?! - the answer is that it comes from the same Anglo-Saxon word as 'dunes' – a small hill.) Anyway, we hope you like the new Magazine when it comes, and will be grateful for any feedback you'd like to pass on!

Lent with George Herbert

The 17th-century priest George Herbert wrote some of the greatest Christian poems in the English language, and during Lent we'll be looking at six of these. The first poem will be introduced at Evensong at Ilmington, on 26th February at 6.00pm.

.From the Registers

Funeral:

Bernard John Gardner, aged 85, at Ilmington, 24 January

Nature Notes February 2023

There is a plant called *dicentra spectabilis* or bleeding heart (although these days its name is *lamprocapnos*), and a variety called Valentine. It is native to Siberia, Northern China, Japan and Korea. This is a delicate plant with arching stems and beautiful heart shaped flowers of pink with a white droplet. There are other colours as well. It is shade loving and can be seen growing in rock crevices at low altitudes in the mountains. However, we don't have to go abroad to see it as it was introduced to the UK in 1810, then lost but reintroduced in 1846 by a Scottish botanist. It has been my pleasure to

have one in the garden! I thank God for the wonderful diversity of plants and the pleasure they give us and in celebrating Valentine's Day as some of us might do we can also celebrate God's love for us freely given we just have to receive it.

Gill

The New Look

Richard Cooke has set out in his opening piece the exciting news about our new name which will take effect in the April issue. This month's innovation is that contributors are signing their articles so that readers know the source of our news items.

1 January saw a change in our advertising rates and layouts which took immediate effect with new advertisers and those renewing their arrangement with us. Existing advertisers will be charged the new rates when they renew. If you would like information about the new rates and advert sizes please contact Treasurer, Tim Seller, T: 01608 T: 01608682; E: tim.seller@outlook.com. Also contact Tim if you have any contacts who would like to advertise with us. Watch this space for more details.

Susan Brock, Editor

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Village Hall

On February 11 we will hold the annual and very popular Quiz Night with questions set by the talented quiz master, LIs Ribbons. Tickets can be purchased at the Community Shop or through Eventbrite for the bargain price of £10 which includes for a light supper. In January we started the wellbeing initiative, offering gentle exercise opportunities in the form of Zumba Gold (movement for music) and Indoor Curling (curling on ball bearings) and on 3 February from 11 to 12 there will be a taster Tai Chi session. Assuming all these prove popular we have the opportunity to continue them for 3 months free of charge so please take advantage of it. All we ask for is a small voluntary contribution to the village hall heating costs. Warm Hub coffee/tea mornings, were also continued through January and subject to demand, will continue in February and March. Please keep abreast of the shop notice board and online newsletter for updates on all these.

Bryan Clifford - Chairperson Ilmington Village Hall Management Committee

Village Gardens Open: Sunday 24 June 2023

In an effort to raise much needed funds for St Mary's Church, we are planning a Gardens Open afternoon with teas on 24 June. If you would be willing to open your garden, large or small -- which doesn't need to be manicured to National Garden Scheme standards--- please contact Irene Sabin, 01608 682569.

Irene Sabin, Ilmington PCC

Ilmington Screen on the Green

On Friday 24 February we will be showing "Mrs Harris Goes to Paris", which tells of the adventures that ensue when a widowed London cleaning lady (Lesley Manville) heads to Paris to follow her dream of owning a Dior

"frock". Set in the 1950s, this is an upbeat family film full of charm, wit and haute couture. Anna Chancellor, Isabelle Huppert and Jason Isaacs also star. Rated PG. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start at Ilmington Village Hall. You are encouraged to buy tickets in advance from the Village Shop, although some will be available on the door. Licensed bar and raffle.
Lis Ribbans, Ilmington Cinema Group

The Coven

Ladies! Cease to hibernate - February 15 is the date to do some things that really matter - lunch at the Howard to chew and chatter!
Christine Wright, Head Hag

Next Wednesday Club meeting: 8th February

January turned out to be a lot busier than intended! Our Christmas meal was held on 11th January instead of in December and we then had the pantomime trip the very next day. It was a very busy and enjoyable 48 hours; the Chipping Norton pantomime was brilliant. Our next meeting is on February 8th where we are to have a speaker talking about your health and well-being; two very good reasons to come and hear our speaker. Visitors will be very welcome. Besides that, it will be **subscription time so please bring £6** to the meeting. We celebrated 4 birthdays in January, Bryan Clifford, Christine Wright, and David Shell and Genny Walker who have birthdays on the same day. Hope your birthdays were a happy one! In the month of February, we have Christine Warmington on 11th and Sue Matthews on 22nd. Happy birthday to you all!
Carole Clifford, Wednesday Club

New book by JUDGE THE POET now available!

JUDGEMENT DAY is the latest book of poems by Ilmington-based writer-and-performer Judge The Poet. "Different, engaging and provocative... it will change the way you think about poems - and about everything else!" You can buy your (signed) copy at Ilmington Community Shop.
Judge the Poet (www.judgethepoet.com)

Cake and Spring Gardens, Ilmington, Sunday 12 February 2-4pm

Snowdrops and hellebores at Ravenscroft, Grump St., Meadow View, Back St., Wharf Farmhouse, Middle St. and others. With tea, coffee and cake at Ilmington Community café. In aid of Prostate Cancer UK and Pancreatic Cancer UK which have supported so many friends and neighbours.

Catherine Hilton, Jackie Prosser and Susan Brock

Ilmington Community Shop and Café: Ooh lala!

The early months of the year can be tough for small businesses and we'd love you to think about prioritising your very own community shop! Why not "challenge Michele" to find items you thought we'd never stock? You'll be amazed what we can find and order in. A growing number of customers order their health foods and favourite items from us on a weekly basis. Meanwhile, we are holding a little French supper on Friday 17th February, a three-course meal including wine, coffee and Coq au Vin for only £15. At this price, tickets sell fast, so do book early for a very convivial evening! Dates @thecafe this month: *Every Wednesday morning 10am* Parent and Baby Group; *Tuesday 7th February 2pm* Book Club: Because Of You by Dawn French; *Friday 17th February 6.30 for 7pm* French Night in the Café; *Wednesday 22nd February 2pm* Knit and Natter.

TREDINGTON

Tredington & District Garden Club

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th February: **Cotswold Gardens in Photographs**. Photographer Richard Harvey will be showing his own photographs, information about the locations and providing tips to improve our own garden photography. The bar opens at 7pm with the presentation at 7.30pm. The evening will include a raffle and 'bring & share' table for your plants and gardening items, closing with light refreshments. For more information see the Club website www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com.

Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Newbold & Tredington C of E Primary School

The spring term got off to a busy start with the children at Newbold visiting Cotswold Wildlife Park to see all the different animals. The visit was arranged to help the children with their new "BIG" question "How do animals live in our world?" Amber Class (Year 6) started their BIG question of "How have humans impacted the world we live in?" with a visit to The Living Rainforest where they heard an informative talk about Deforestation and Animal Adaptations. Both these visits will support the children with the learning as they progress through the term. Ten children went to Shipston Sports Club to take part in the Cluster Sports cross country event. Some of the children attending will be selected to run for South Warwickshire in a county event. The School Council continue to fund raise by having cake sales and sponsored events.

Samantha Welsby, Head teacher

Tredington and Blackwell WI

The next WI Meeting will take place on Thursday 9th February 2023 in the WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP commencing at 1pm with delicious soup and a roll. Representatives from Crafter's Companion, Evesham will be coming to the WI Hall to demonstrate *Card Making*. We are also looking forward to our meeting on Thursday 9th March 2023 starting at 1pm when Dr Gillian Mara will be giving her inspirational talk *Surviving the Fall*. If you would like to attend any of our WI meetings, please contact Patricia Macpherson, Secretary. For further details, please email: secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or telephone 01608 682102. Visitors are always welcome at our 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>.

Patricia Mcpherson, Secretary, Tredington and Blackwell WI

'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.

Patricia Mcpherson, Secretary, Tredington and Blackwell WI

WI Community Film Night

Our next film screening in the WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP will be on Friday 3rd February 2023. Bar opens at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. It is a British drama that tells the stories of a WWII evacuee and of his unwilling hostess (Cert. PG, 2020, running time 100 minutes, plus interval with bar and ice creams). Booking is now open. The film to be screened on Friday 31st March 2023 will be a charming British comedy-drama with a stellar cast (Cert. 12, 2020, running time 95 minutes, plus interval). For more details of these films, to join the email list or to book places, please contact Gill by email: treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or text: 07789 810877.

Patricia Mcpherson, Secretary, Tredington and Blackwell WI

Craft and Chatter

Our next two Craft and Chatter meetings will be on Thursday 2nd February 2023 and Thursday 2nd March 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 Mcpherson, Secretary, Tredington and Blackwell WI

Quiz night and Fish and Chip Supper

Our popular Community Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper will be held in the Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP on Friday 24th March 2023 at 6.30pm. A bar will be available. Teams of 4 or come on your own and join a team. Tickets are £12.50 per person (including supper from the Mermaid Fish Bar). A £5 deposit to be paid at time of booking. Numbers are restricted, so please book early. For further information and to book, please contact Gill Goodlad, Treasurer, by email: treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or telephone: 07789 810877.

Patricia Mcpherson, Secretary, Tredington and Blackwell WI

STRETTON-ON-FOSSE

Stretton Film Night. 3 February: Top Gun - Maverick

Friday 3rd February. 7pm doors for 7.30pm start. Adults £3.50 Kids £2.50. *Please note that this film is a 12A*

Jo Holdback

SERVICE ROTA 2023

February 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
3 rd Before Lent	Holy Communion 11.00am	Holy Communion 11.00am	Evensong (1662) 6.00pm	Holy Communion 9.30am	Morning Worship 10.30am	Services resume on Mothering Sunday (19 March)
12 th Before Lent	Morning Worship 11.00am	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am	Holy Communion 9.30am	Holy Communion 10.30am	
19 th Next Before Lent		Family Service 11.00am		Holy Communion 9.30am	Morning Prayer 10.30am	(19 March)
22 nd Ash Wednesday					Holy Communion with Ashes 7.30pm	
26 th Lent 1		Evensong (1662) 6.00pm	Morning Prayer 11.00am		Holy Communion 10.30am	∞

Note: Services marked '1662' are according to the Book of Common Prayer

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

Darlingscott

Ilmington

Preston-on-Stour

Stretton-on-Fosse

Whitchurch

Posts vacant – contact the Rector

Doreen McCarroll

Jane Downie

Andrew Holman- West

Posts vacant – contact the Rector

Carol Rutter

01608 682949 (landline)

01608 682720 (landline)

07712 193773 (mobile)

Helen Patrick

01789 450795 (landline)

John Craner

01789 450200 (landline)

Enquiries about advertising in the magazine to Tim Seller: E: tim.seller@outlook.com; T: 01608 682244; Long Barn, Back St., Ilmington, CV36 4LJ. Deadline for the March 2023 issue is 13 February. Copy to Susan Brock, Editor: E: s.brock9@btinternet.com; T: 01608 682409; Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington, CV36 4LA.

New 'FYT' Group to start in the Village Hall from Jan 12th Supported by Christine Holyhead

Fabric – maybe sewing, dressmaking, upcycling outdated garments; **Y**arn – get knitting or crocheting! **T**hread – whatever – macrame perhaps? Do you have a craft project you would like some advice on? Perhaps there's a half-finished garment in a cupboard at home which you never seem to get around to completing..... Do you just like the idea of having a get together with others while you get on with your handicraft? If so, come along to join a small group of like-minded folk in the meeting room at the village hall (max 8) every Thursday from Jan 12th 2 – 3.30pm.£2 per session to cover costs.

Jill Case

Stretton Soup Lunches

Some volunteers in the village are now providing soup lunches fortnightly on a Wednesday at the village hall from 12.30pm. There is always a choice of 3 soups and bread rolls followed by tea and coffee (and sometimes cake!). There will always be at least one vegetarian soup and, if given advance notice we will try to accommodate any personal dietary needs. There won't be a charge but we request donations to cover costs. **Next Dates are: Feb 8th and 22nd; Mar 8th and 22nd.** For more details, contact Geri Hunting on 07968 338848 or 01608 663916.

All Welcome!

Geri Hunting

WHITCHURCH

Whitchurch St. Mary's

Although services are suspended until early March, our church remains open for prayer and meditation. Please use the public footpath from the corner of Park House to the church. Dogs are welcome -- but keep them on a lead. Spring lambing starts in the new year.

Carol Rutter, Churchwarden

Notes from a Small Church in a Field

This continues our series of extracts from Ursula Bloom's memoir, *The Changed Village* (1945). She writes that village weddings 'were gay. We used to make the bouquets out of flowers from our garden and the village would be full of excitement.' She'd get 'confetti ready to throw at the lucky pair in the churchyard', and afterwards there was 'the enormous feed' that the villagers 'had been preparing all week. Tremendous spreads were produced. There was something of almost everything, and toasts to be drunk, and speeches to be made with the usual rather stereotyped jokes. I remember one bride taking me up to her room where, quite brazenly, her nightdress was reposing beside his pyjamas, and pyjamas then were an innovation. I cannot help thinking that these were only for show, for the men always slept in their shirts.'

Carol Rutter, Churchwarden

PRESTON-ON-STOUR

The Annual Preston Quiz - doors open at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start on Saturday 4th February

Time to start planning your teams of four, brushing up on your general knowledge and making notes of any likely trivia. A table of four is £20, there will be prizes, a

raffle and we serve a selection of finger food at the midway break, please bring your own drinks and glasses (and team name). We are taking bookings now - for more information and/or to register your team please contact Mick Jennings on 01789 450797 or email mickandsally76@gmail.com.

Margaret Brocklehurst

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

Townsend Hall, Shipston-on-Stour

After our Carl Sinclair Quartet gig in December that was a lot of fun, we took a breather from our Traditional Jazz events in January, but we're now back in the swing. Get your tickets sorted for the Tenement Jazz Band on Friday February 24th – winners of Best Band, Scottish Jazz Awards, 2022! Tickets are £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall, or from Clarke Electrical Services in town. Otherwise, maintenance of the hall, managed by volunteer trustees, never stops - we've been busy fitting new doors and successfully progressing our vacancies for a cleaner and hall bookings administrator. We're a charity (CHARITY No 522997) funded through booking fees, donations, and proceeds from events we put on in our Traditional Jazz programme – if you think jazz isn't your thing, you might be surprised - give it a go, we're confident you'll enjoy the evening and the high level of musicianship. Visit www.townsendhall.co.uk for more.
Haydn Ward, Trustee Townsend Hall

A Date for your Diary for 2023: A Breakfast For Women

A Breakfast is arranged for Saturday 4th March at the Halford Bridge Inn at 9.00am. Liz Smith from Evesham will be speaking and friends and neighbours, new guests, and everyone is welcome who would like to 'taste and see', with a delicious continental pastry and fruit breakfast.
Liz Harvey 07914 026451

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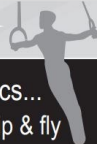


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