

# **THE SIX PARISHES MAGAZINE**



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

**No. 275**

**January 2023**

# THE HOWARD ARMS ILMINGTON



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

**Richard Cooke, Rector, writes:**

### **Amazing Grace!**

1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 sees the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of composition of the well-known hymn 'Amazing Grace'. At Darlingscott Church on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 11.00am we shall have special service to mark the anniversary. What is not so well known about Amazing Grace is that it seems to have been composed in Warwickshire, just up the road from our villages, in nearby Kineton.

John Newton, the author, was at the time the curate of the parish of Olney in Buckinghamshire. But he was an unusual clergyman for the time, having gone to sea at 11 and been press-ganged into the Navy at the age of 17. Most of Newton's subsequent sea-going career was spent in the slave trade, eventually as captain of a series of slave-ships. As a young man he was himself enslaved for three years in West Africa. Soon after this, utterly dejected and suicidal, he began to read his Bible and eventually came to know the presence of God at his darkest times. Though it was a long process, by the early 1750s Newton had become a Christian. Ill-health forced him to give up his life as a sailor, He had begun preaching and pursued a call to ordination. It was 9 years before he found a bishop who would ordain an old sea-captain, but in 1764 he became minister of Olney.

In time he began to reflect on his life, and, remarkably for the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, he began to see the evils of the slave-trade which he had continued to invest in, even once he left the sea. His own period of enslavement gave him some insight into and sympathy with the slaves whom he had transported from Africa. He was aware, too, that the trade had become increasingly brutal and profit-driven, and in what amounted to a second conversion he eventually came out in opposition to the slave trade. In 1788 he published a Confession, 'that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders.' This was an important moment in the growing campaign against the slave trade, and Newton's voice was a powerful one.

This life-story lies behind his most famous hymn. At Olney Newton would write a hymn for his evening service once a week, and for 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 the Bible text he was preaching from was 'Who am I, that thou hast brought me thus far?' It prompted 'Amazing Grace', and people have been singing it ever since. One estimate is that is performed about 10 million times a year.

And the Kineton connection? Well, Newton went to stay with his friend William Taylor, vicar of Kineton, after Christmas 1772. He returned to Olney for New Year's Eve, so it seems that it was while at Kineton that his famous hymn was born.

### **From the Registers**

#### **Baptism:**

**Beatrice Poppy Westaway** at Ilmington, 4 December

#### **Wedding:**

**Ciara Elizabeth Kavanagh and Michael James Leafe** at Ilmington, 19  
December

#### **Funeral:**

**Russell John Wisdom**, aged 73, at Ilmington, 22 December

### **Warmest Greetings to All in the Six Parishes from a Cold Erdington.**

Jean and I were overwhelmed by the numbers that turned out for our farewell event at Tredington on the 12<sup>th</sup> November. We are also very thankful for the generous gift to which so many of you contributed at our farewell. Donald and his band of Morris Dancers gave a moving performance of the Story of the Dancer very appropriate for the Remembrance weekend.

During our time amongst you we were struck by the diversity of the six churches that made up the congregations we were privileged to serve. Now in a far more urban setting we find just as much of a diversity expressed in different ways. When we arrived in the six parishes someone asked if there were any street lights in our previous rural parish, we said a few. "Very urban" was the response. Now the street lights are very bright and we can give thanks for the wonderful variety of ways that the light of faith can shine in our lives. Many thanks for all that you have given us over these last four years and we are sure that diverse light will continue to shine amongst the six parishes. Do call by if you are in this direction our new address is 85 Reservoir Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 6DH. Email and phone are unchanged.

*Stephen and Jean Fletcher*

### **Safeguarding Training**

A basic and foundation course has now been arranged, face to face, for those who cannot access this online. This is to be held in The Chancel, St. Gregory's, Tredington on Monday 16 January from 7.00-9.00pm. This is open for all in the Benefices who require up to date training and anyone else who is interested. If you would like to attend please contact, Marilyn Payne, Parish Safeguarding Officer, on 01608 666206.

*Marilyn Payne*

### **Nature Notes December 2023**

I love to hear the "chattering" of house sparrows in hedges where they like to congregate together. This little bird may not be as colourful as some we have, but nonetheless is just as attractive. However, once common in the UK this little bird is now on the red list of concern. Habitat destruction, house building with small gardens/virtually no garden where species cannot survive all cause the decline. They enjoy eating grains, nuts and scraps and will happily come to a bird table if you put food out. Nests are often in holes, crevices, thick hedges/conifers and nest boxes. A hole is filled with dry grass/straw and lined with feathers, hairs, string and paper. Pairs often remain faithful to their nest site and to each other for life. There is a song about God's care of the sparrow and us which says For His eye, His eye is on the sparrow, And I know, I know He watches over me. Now that's something to be thankful for!

### **Six Parishes Magazine: Changes Afoot**

A facelift is in order for the 6PMag and spring 2023 will see its relaunch with a new title, glossy cover, more pages and **bigger** print. Thanks to financial support from all of our parishes, extra advertising space and careful husbandry by our Treasurer, Tim Seller, you'll be receiving a more attractive, informative – and easier to read—monthly newsletter and it will still be free. But we need your help. If you are an artist or a photographer, send us your images to use on our new look front cover. If you appreciate the contribution of the magazine to your community, become a regular donor by setting up a direct debit to support us. Our bank details are: 6 Parishes Magazine, 30-98-97, acc. no. 55673763. If you offer a service or have a business locally think about advertising with us. The magazine reaches

over 1200 households. And we are looking for an Advertising Manager to join the 6PMag team. Contact Tim Seller T: 01608682 E: [tim.seller@outlook.com](mailto:tim.seller@outlook.com). Watch this space for more details.

*Susan Brock, Editor*

## **PRESTON-ON-STOUR**

### **Poppy Appeal Result 2022**

Many thanks to everyone for their tremendous generosity in supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal 2022. The total amount raised for the local area, covering Alderminster, Wimpstone, Crimscote, Preston and Atherstone-on-Stour, was £1,739.91 - a terrific effort, especially in light of the more difficult economic circumstances compared with last year. Altogether a fantastic achievement.

*Sally Keegan, Poppy Appeal Organiser*

### **Preston Village Hall**

The committee of the village hall hope everyone had a very happy Christmas, we wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you at a village event in the coming months. Now that we have new heating the hall is a warm and comfortable space even in the colder months.

### **Preston Film Night**

We have had a break over the Christmas and New Year holiday time but will be back on the last Friday in January which will be 27th.

### **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](mailto:mickandsally76@gmail.com).

## **ILMINGTON**

### **Ilmington Screen on the Green**

On Friday 27 January we will be showing "*Fisherman's Friends: One and All*", the highly anticipated follow-up to the 2019 hit British comedy-drama based on the true story of a group of Cornish fishermen who find unexpected fame as folk singers. Starring James Purefoy, the film rejoins the "buoy band" as they navigate the choppy waters of success and the prospect of performing on the iconic Pyramid stage at Glastonbury. 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*

### **The Coven**

The New Year's here and its very cold, and some of us are very old - so we'll stay at home in January and eat twice as much in February!

*Christine Wright*

**Ilmington Wednesday Club**  
**Our New Year Panto : Thursday 12th January 10.15am**

A very happy Christmas and New year to all our members!

We start the year of 2023 with a pantomime in Chipping Norton but to start the day, Christine Wright would like to invite you all to cake and tea/coffee at the shop Cafe. Please be there for 10.15 am. We will then board the coach to Chipping Norton at 11.15. Please bring a light lunch to eat as the theatre does not have a cafe. We do have a few seats spare on the coach to Chipping Norton and we are happy to offer them to non-members for the price of £5. Please ring 682 996 if you are interested. This does not include theatre tickets. We will be returning at 2.30 pm. For members, see you at the Cafe at 10.15 am to celebrate Christine's birthday! Remember, it's Thursday and not Wednesday! Keep safe and warm everyone!

*Carole Clifford*

**Ilmington Community Shop and Café**  
**Your shop needs you!**

We are brimming with energy this New Year, with plans for some lovely celebrations and community events. Please look out for our long-table Friday night suppers which combine great value with good company, our Coronation street party in May, and a range of events that bring everyone together.

The café has been closed over Christmas, but reopens on 3<sup>rd</sup> January – and this is also the date for our first Book Club at 2pm. The book under discussion is *A Spark of Light* by American novelist Jodie Picoult. You're welcome to join us even if you haven't read it! Then there's Parent & Baby group from 4<sup>th</sup> January and every Wednesday morning at 10am. Or Knit and Natter, which is at 2pm on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

One final word: as Covid fades and Christmas melts away, please don't stop shopping with us. We depend on your custom to keep stocks varied, to bring our social hub alive and to support our local suppliers. Your Community Shop and Café needs you!

*Ilmington Community Shop Committee*

**TREDINGTON**

**Tredington and Blackwell WI**

The next WI Meeting will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 in the WI Hall, Arm-scote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP 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*. We are also looking forward to our meeting on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 starting at 1pm when some representatives from Crafter's Companion, Evesham will be coming to the WI Hall to demonstrate *Card Making*. 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 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. 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.

### **Craft and Chatter**

Our next two Craft and Chatter meetings will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 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 740815.

### **Tredington & District Garden Club**

We meet for our annual members' lunch in The Lion pub on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Details will be emailed to members and available on our website [www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com](http://www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com). We return to evening meetings on 16<sup>th</sup> February, when our speaker will be Garden Photographer, Richard Harvey. More in the February magazine.

## **STRETTON-ON-FOSSE**

### **Stretton Parish Charity**

Many of you will be aware of this Charity, but for the benefit of those that aren't, small annual payments are currently issued under the following categories, depending on available funds:

**'Winter Fuel Payment'** – an annual payment is made in December to anyone over 65, who have been resident in the Parish for 3 years or more. **Also**, to households with at least one pre-school aged child.

**'Moving to secondary school'** – a one off payment made in July to all children moving from year 6 to year 7 to help with costs such as uniform.

**'Moving to second year of University Education'** – a one off payment made to those who have completed their first year at university and plan to continue onto a second year.

**'Hardship Payment'** – 'for the relief of distress and sickness' by personal application to the trustees or brought to the attention of the trustees.

**'Individual Educational Grants'** – on personal application to the trustees.

**'Community Organisations'** – considered on application for projects that will benefit the community of Stretton Parish.

If you would like to get in touch with the trustees about any of these payments, please drop a note of your contact details into the post box on the wall at the entrance to the Village Hall.

*Paul Robinson, Trustee, Stretton Parish Charity*

## SERVICE ROTA

January 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
1 <sup>st</sup>	Morning Worship 11.00am 'Amazing Grace'					
8 <sup>th</sup>		Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am Family Service 11.00am	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am		Holy Communion 10.30am	
15 <sup>th</sup>				Holy Communion 9.30am	Morning Prayer 10.30am	
22 <sup>nd</sup>		Evensong (1662) 6.00pm	Morning Prayer 11.00am		Holy Communion 10.30am	
29 <sup>th</sup>		Morning Prayer 11.00am	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am		Morning Prayer 10.30am	
<b>Candlemas</b>						

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

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### Ministers:

Rector:

The Revd Canon Dr Richard Cooke  
or 01608 544821 (landline) or [Richard.Cooke.ilmington@Outlook.com](mailto:Richard.Cooke.ilmington@Outlook.com)

Hon. Assistant Minister:

The Revd Dr Tim Seller

Reader:

Ros Wakefield

Reader Emeritus:

Malcolm Davies  
01789 450793 (landline)

### Churchwardens:

Tredington

*Posts vacant – contact the Rector*

Darlingscott

Doreen McCarroll

Ilmington

Jane Downie

Preston-on-Stour

Andrew Holman- West

Stretton-on-Fosse

*Posts vacant – contact the Rector*

Whitchurch

Carol Rutter

Enquiries about Weddings or Baptisms are very welcome! Please contact the Rector, Richard Cooke.

01789 450795 (landline)  
John Craner 01789 450200 (landline)

Helen Patrick

*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., Ilmington, CV36 4LJ. Deadline for the February 2023 issue is 14 January. Copy to Susan Brock, Editor: E: [s.brock@btinternet.com](mailto:s.brock@btinternet.com); T: 01608 682409; Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington, CV36 4LA.*





### **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: December 28<sup>th</sup> (to be confirmed); January 11<sup>th</sup>; January 25<sup>th</sup>; ...and fortnightly thereafter. For more details, contact Geri Hunting on 07968 338848 or 01608 663916. All Welcome!  
*Jill Case*

## **WHITCHURCH**

### **Notes from a Small Church in a Field**

This continues our series of extracts from Ursula Bloom's memoir, *The Changed Village* published in 1945. She writes of Christmas at the rectory at the turn of the last century that it was 'a real old beano': 'On Christmas Eve down we all trailed to decorate the church, attacking laurels, yews, holly and box and dragging them along with us. The Hall supplied flowers for the altar. It was dark before we got back (by lantern light). At six, Christmas began, and we decorated the house. Carollers arrived in solemn rotation. Sometimes opposing village choirs met at the gate and had a free fight there, and once a poor old woman came entirely alone and sang *The First Noel*, and only after my uncle had given her sixpence did he find that she was my mother dressed up as a tramp.'  
*Carol Rutter*

### **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.

## **OUTSIDE THE PARISHES**

### **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.

*Liz Harvey*

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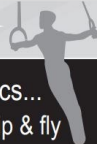


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For the opening hours of the shop and cafe, visit [www.ilmingtonshop.co.uk](http://www.ilmingtonshop.co.uk) or see us on Facebook.



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