

**Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No 1 April 2023**



# THE HOWARD ARMS ILMINGTON

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## Downs and Valley Churches Service Rota April 2023

April 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
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Palm Sunday</b>		11.00am Communion	6.00pm Evensong (1662)		10.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Communion (1662)
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday</b>			7.30pm Communion (1662)			
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Good Friday</b>		2.00pm Last Hour at the Cross			7.00pm 'At the Foot of the Cross'	
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Easter Day</b>	6.00pm Evening Prayer (1662)	11.00am Easter Communion (1662)	9.30am Easter Communion (1662)	9.30am Easter Communion	10.30am Easter Communion	4.00pm Easter Celebration (& Egg Hunt!)
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Easter 2</b>		11.00am Family Service with Baptism		9.30am Communion	10.30am Morning Prayer	
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Easter 3</b>	4.00pm Evening Worship	6.00pm Evensong (1662) & Annual Meeting	11.00am Morning Prayer		10.30am Communion & Annual Meeting	
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Easter 4</b>		11.00am Morning Prayer	9.30am Communion (1662)		Morning Prayer 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](mailto:Richard.Cooke.Ilmington@Outlook.com)

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

Reader: Ros Wakefield 01608 682146 (landline)

Reader Emeritus: Malcolm Davies 01789 450793 (landline)

### Churchwardens:

Tredington *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*

Darlingscott Doreen McCarroll 01608 682949 (landline)

Ilmington Jane Downie 01608 682720 (landline)

Helen Patrick

Preston-on-Stour Andrew Holman- West 07712 193773 (mobile)

Stretton-on-Fosse *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*

Whitchurch Carol Rutter 01789 450795 (landline)

John Craner 01789 450200 (landline)

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

*Richard Cooke, Rector, writes:*

## **Easter – new beginnings?**

Easter is the greatest festival of the Christian year, a time for new beginnings and fresh life. It's mirrored for us all around in this part of the world, as Spring is in full swing, but it's more than just a Spring festival. For Christians it represents the triumph of light over darkness and life over death as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Resurrection life is more than just a return to life - it's about life in a new dimension. Not so much 'life after death' as 'life beyond death'.

That means it's about new beginnings rather than just picking up where things left off. It's about second chances, if you like, but with the added thought that a second chance isn't necessarily second best. Because of that, traditionally Easter was a time for the baptism of new Christians, a custom that survived for many centuries, and until quite recently, in the gift of new clothes at Easter. It was a time for a fresh start.

After the last few years many of us feel in need of a fresh start. Why not use this Easter as a time for doing something about that? The life, death and resurrection of Jesus offers purpose and meaning to life - and to life beyond death as well. I hope we shall be able to explore that in an Alpha Course in the parishes later in the year, but in the meantime if you'd like have a chat anyway, do use the email or phone contacts for me printed on other pages in the magazine.

And in the meantime, Happy Easter!

### **New Service Patterns**

From May we shall be adopting a slightly different pattern of services across our churches. The headlines are:

Ilmington's morning services will all now take place at 11.00am, with communions on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Tredington's morning services will move from 10.30am to 11.00am, though be otherwise unchanged.

Stretton-on-Fosse's services will be held at 9.30am on the first and third Sundays only.

There are some other slight changes to the pattern, of which more details will follow in the next magazine.

### **Services for Easter Day, 9 April**

9.30am – Easter Communion at Stretton-on-Fosse and Preston-on-Stour

10.30am – Easter Communion at Tredington

11.00am – Easter Communion at Ilmington

4.00pm – Easter Celebration with Easter Egg Hunt at Whitchurch

6.00pm - Evening Prayer and Reflection at Darlingscott

## From the Registers

### **Banns of Marriage**

At Preston-on-Stour: 5, 12 Mar Jamie Strong and Emma-Jane Owen of Preston. (Marriage at Preston 25 March.)

At Tredington 19, 26 Mar Hugo Lewis and Tiffany Lockett, of the parish of St Peter's Cranbourne, Windsor, (Marriage to take place at Tredington on 29 April.)

At Tredington and Ilmington 19, 26 Mar Patrick Makosch and Alison Pearce of the parish of St Gregory's Tredington. (Marriage to take place at Ilmington on 22 April.)

### **Weddings**

At Preston-on-Stour, 25 March: Jamie Strong and Emma-Jane Owen

### **Funerals**

At Oakley Wood Crematorium: 8 March, John Stainer, aged 82, of Wimpstone. Memorial Service on 23 March at Preston-on-Stour

At Oakley Wood Crematorium: 10 March, Brenda Underwood, aged 88, of Tredington.

At Ilmington, followed by burial in Churchyard: 27 March, Nick Foster, aged 60, of Fulready.

## Editor's Note:

The five Downs and Valley parishes are: Ilmington, Preston-on-Stour, Stretton-on-Fosse, Tredington with Darlingscott and Whitchurch. Copies of the magazine are distributed to Atherstone, Blackwell, Crimscote, Darlingscott, Ilmington, Preston, Stretton, Tredington and Whitchurch.

**The deadline for copy for the May issue is 15 April.** Copy to Susan Brock, Editor, E. s.brock9@btinternet.com, Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington, CV36 4LA. Enquiries about advertising to Tim seller: E. Tim.Seller@outlook.com, Long Barn, Back St., Ilmington, CV36 4LJ.

*The cover image was supplied by Michael Ritson of Tredington. If you would like to submit an image yourself, email it to Susan Brock as a jpg or PDF file (portrait layout).*

**Parish news** : to make it easier to find what you want parishes are arranged alphabetically.

## Nature Notes April 2023

A rainbow is a beautiful sight to see. There is something special about it. We know that when it rains and the sun is out we will see one. A rainbow is caused by sunlight and atmospheric conditions. Light enters a water droplet, slowing down and bending as it goes from air to denser water. The light reflects off the inside of the droplet, separating into its component wavelengths--or colours, making a rainbow. A double rainbow appears when light is reflected twice in a raindrop. Amazingly no two people see the same rainbow. That's because a rainbow has no appearance – its precise shape, arc, and the width of its colour bands –

will be slightly different according to the eye of the beholder. That means every rainbow is unique to you! It was God who gave us the rainbow as a promise that He would never flood the whole earth again so when we see the rainbow, we can remember His promise. Genesis Ch 9. *Gill*

## **ILMINGTON**

### **St Mary's Ilmington**

If you would like to remember a loved one at Easter , donations towards Easter lilies can be made to Helen Patrick or left at the Community Shop, or direct to the bank account 30-98-26. account no. 01704398. PCC Ilmington

### **FAMILY FUN DAY Saturday 17 June at Ilmington School**

#### **Save the Date**

There will be food, and art and craft exhibition and wildlife activities for children and adults organised as part of the national Great Big Green Week, the UK's celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. I would like help with setting up in advance and cleaning up afterwards as well as contributions towards the cost of the publicity, which will be small. Also wanted - people who are interested in bees, hedgehogs, mini beasts and birds. If you would like to be part of this venture, please contact Jane Neate on 01608 682520 / 07854 701063.

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

On Friday 28 April we will be showing "A Man Called Otto", starring Tom Hanks. Based on a best-selling novel, this black comedy tells the story of a grouchy widower who has given up on life until the delightfully feisty Marisol (Mariana Treviño) and her young family move in across the street. Rated 15. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start at Ilmington Village Hall. Tickets in advance from the Village Shop, although some will be available on the door. Licensed bar and raffle. **Please note:** this film was previously advertised for our March screening but deferred owing to a delay in its release date. For early-bird readers of this magazine, our film on 31 March will be "The Lost King" starring Sally Hawkins and Steve Coogan.

*Lis Ribbans*

### **The Coven**

Smug in the Snug a lovely platter of tender fish in crispy batter, lots of laughter, lots of chatter, meet on April 19th( and get a bit fatter!)

*Chief Crone, Christine Wright*

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*Lis Ribbans, Committee member*

### **Good Eggs!**

Easter is a traditional time for overindulgence and we love to help you overdo it at the Community Shop. Our shelves are groaning with exceptional eggs, fine chocolate and pretty boxes, along with Easter and Spring cards to complete the gifting and goodwill. We're adding to the egg theme on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April with our first ever Big Breakfast @thecafe. You'll need tickets for this friendly fry-up as all our hot meals and long-table suppers are proving extremely popular. Also look out for the World Wildlife Trust who will be holding a stall in the café from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April. And check our website [www.ilmingtonshop.co.uk](http://www.ilmingtonshop.co.uk) for timings of all our friendly groups.

*Debbie Sargent, Committee member*

### **Village Gardens Open: Sunday 25 June 2023: Save the Date**

In an effort to raise much needed funds for St Mary's Church, there will be a Gardens Open afternoon with teas on 25 June. If you would like to help in anyway please contact Irene Sabin, 01608 682569.

*Irene Sabin, Ilmington PCC*

### **Ilmington Village Hall Wellbeing Events**

**Zumba** - Get fit to music with Zumba Gold, classes every Tuesday starting at 2:30pm.

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

**Tai Chi**- Every Friday (except for the last Friday on the month) starting at 11:00am . Can be done standing or sitting.

*Bryan Clifford, Chair Village Hall Committee*

### **Ilmington Wednesday Club**

Our last meeting was a great success, anything to do with dogs in this village is always a winner. Our guide dog meeting was so well attended, the presenters so well informed and as for the dogs them-



selves (two retired brood bitches and a retired stud...I am stressing retired here!) they were indeed the stars of the show. Thank you to the Guide Dogs ambassador and to my sister for their excellent contribution. Our next meeting will be on 12th April at 1pm as we will be having a farewell lunch for Colin and Mary Waterman. This is for members only but if you are a close friend and would like to be there, then please contact me. For the members, the cost will be a very reasonable £5. Birthdays for April are restricted to just one! It's Bob Johnson who is 81 this year. Yes, he kept his 80th a secret!! Naughty man! Please wish him a happy birthday when you see him on his walk. Keep smiling and keep safe!

*Carole Clifford, chair of the Wednesday Club*

## **PRESTON-on-STOUR**

### **Coronation Celebrations: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Picnic on the Green**

There is a plan to have a picnic on the village green on Sunday to celebrate the King's coronation. Those interested should gather on the green opposite the church with picnics, chairs etc and we can give it a go! If the weather is against us we can move to the village hall. There is talk of entertainment, but nothing firmed up yet so look out for more information on noticeboards and the village website.

#### **Preston Village Hall**

**Film Night - Friday 28th April** 'The Banshees of Inisherin': a black tragicomedy set on a remote fictional island off the west coast of Ireland starring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson. Doors open at 7 for a 7.30 start.

**May Day - Monday May 1st:** there is still time to come forward if you would like to be our May Queen. We are looking for girls aged 8 on or before May this year and, either living within the three parishes, or with a strong family connection. Please contact Margaret on 01789 450710 or email prestonbrocks@gmail.com. May Day is a very traditional village event starting at 2.30 from the village hall car park and processing up the street to the church green where the Queen is crowned. In keeping with the coronation theme we are inviting people to attend in as much red, white and blue as possible. There will be teas, homemade cakes, stalls and children's games to please all age groups. It will be held in the village hall if wet.

**Coronation Weekend - 6/7th May:** Rumour has it that our quiz-master, Mick Jennings, has a Coronation Quiz up his sleeve. More details will be publicised nearer the time.

*Margaret Holdsworth*

## **STRETTON on FOSSE**

### **Soup Lunches and Beyond**

Although we are taking a break from Soup Lunches until we restart in the autumn, we would like to continue with some regular monthly event so that we can keep in touch with friends in the community. Here are some possibilities:

- 1) Saturday morning for coffee and possible shopping from Jules' Eco Weigh
- 2) Tea and cakes on a Sunday afternoon with occasional added interest such as a speaker on a subject of local interest
- 3) Any other ideas? Call Geri on 07968 338848

We have all thoroughly enjoyed providing the fortnightly soups and hope you have enjoyed attending too. We look forward to keeping in touch over the summer with whatever community event is chosen by you – the community!

*Geri Hunting*

## **TREDINGTON with DARLINGSCOTT**

### **Neighbourhood Plan, almost there. March 2023**

#### **The Plan has been examined by Louise Brooke-Smith OBE FRICS MRTPI.**

The examiner was extremely complementary about the Plan and recommended it move to immediate referendum subject to minor amendments and corrections. These have been done and the final referendum version of the Plan, along with a copy of the Inspector's report, can be viewed at [Tredingtonnp.co.uk](http://Tredingtonnp.co.uk). Ninety-nine per cent of the plan has been accepted including the designation of the land at the end of Heron Way, Newbold-on-Stour, as a Local Green Space. The Plan and its appendices have been passed to Stratford District Council for a final check; once that is complete, the District Council will arrange a referendum. Unfortunately the forthcoming Council elections in May will delay the process. We hope that the referendum will be sometime in June. The result will be determined on a "first past the post" basis and a good turnout will add weight to the outcome. All residents of the Parish will be eligible to vote so please do so. The outcome of the referendum will be Reported to a meeting of the District Council which has the authority to approve the Plan. Once the Council has accepted the result of the referendum, the Plan is 'made'. From that point forward the District Council must, by law, take the provisions of the Plan into consideration when determining planning applications. The document is a reflection of your views and is, therefore, extremely important in shaping the communities within the Parish in the years to come. *Deborah Williams*

## **Coronation Lunch Sunday 7 May at 12.30**

Please join us to celebrate the Coronation in St Gregory's Church, children especially welcome. We have plenty of room for everyone to join together for a summer style buffet lunch. Become part of the Tredington community and meet new neighbours. Lots of exciting food and fabulous puddings - no diets here. Put your name on the list just inside the church and add anything you are able to bring or help with the lunch. Soft drinks will be provided, bring your own wine. There is no set charge for this meal but donations most welcome and any profit will be given to charity. Further information contact Sarah Taylor 662782, Marilyn Payne 666206, Jenny Plenderleith 664278. *Jenny Plenderleith*

## **Tredington and Blackwell WI**

The next WI Meeting will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in the WI Hall, Armscote Road, Tredington, CV36 4NP commencing at **7pm** (*Please note the change of time for our summer meetings*). Mildred Freeman will give a presentation via Zoom - *A Talk on Gin*. We are also looking forward to our meeting in the WI Hall on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023, at 3.00pm, when we will enjoy an Afternoon Tea to celebrate HM The King's Coronation.

## **Upcoming WI Community Events in the WI Hall, Tredington: Everyone Welcome**

**COFFEE MORNING:** Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, 10.30am-12 noon

**BRUNCH:** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 10.00am-12.00 noon

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](mailto:secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk) or telephone 01608 682102. Visitors are always welcome at our friendly WI. For further information, please see our website: <https://tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk> and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tredingtonandblackwellwi>. *Patricia Macpherson*

## **'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).

## **Craft and Chatter**

Our next Craft and Chatter meeting will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 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](mailto:vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk)

## **Tredington & District Garden Club**

Our April meeting will be on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April** in the WI Hall. Our speaker is Adrian James with an illustrated talk on **Gardens of the Italian Renaissance**.

We open the bar at 7.00pm, with the meeting beginning at 7.30pm. The programme for 2023-24 will be available and membership subscriptions of £18 per person will be collected. The evening will include a raffle, free plants & gardening items donated by members and light refreshments. Non members are welcome. For more information visit the website: [www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com](http://www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com). *Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary*

## **WHITCHURCH**

### **SAVE THE DATE! Whitchurch Fete 1 July 2023**

More information to follow. Donations and offers to help gratefully received. *Biddy James, PCC Secretary*

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

Some twenty-five years ago a local initiative based in Shropshire launched a project to promote churchyards as conservation areas. 'Caring for God's Acre' was eventually established as a national charity in 2000, and in 2022 St Mary's Whitchurch joined the initiative. Our churchyard is now being managed with the objective of improving its value for biodiversity by providing a variety of habitats for plants, mammals, birds, insects and reptiles. We're following the charity's published advice in much of the churchyard. But we will also be keeping the area on either side of the pathway to the church door and around recent graves regularly mown. The churchyard is already host to various birds, including greater spotted woodpeckers, and common butterflies like brimstone, meadow brown, and gatekeeper. Last year we saw a return in profusion of cowslips, cyclamen and wild garlic. In this second year under the new churchyard management plan, we're looking forward to finding even more species. *David Renney, PCC*

## OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

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Maintenance! It's a long expensive list: replacement gas heater; stage curtains; re-decoration; kitchen boiler; chairs; refurbishments; roof repairs. It's a common misconception that we're the "Town Hall", funded by the council – not the case, although we're very grateful for the grants we receive. We're dependent on hiring fees, donations, and proceeds from our events. It was great to see a sell-out for our jazz event in February. As reported before, the proceeds are focused on providing "access for all" to the stage. At the time of writing, Tom "Spats" Langham is selling well and we're anticipating a sell-out. Next is King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. April. Tickets £15, available 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. Take a look at our website, [www.townsendhall.co.uk](http://www.townsendhall.co.uk), for more, and follow us on FaceBook and Twitter. *Haydn Ward, Trustee*

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