

# **THE SIX PARISHES MAGAZINE**



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

**No. 265**

**April 2022**

# THE HOWARD ARMS ILMINGTON



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THE HOWARD ARMS, LOWER GREEN, ILMINGTON,  
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# Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

17 April is Easter - amid Spring weather, fields of lambs, daffodils, primroses, blossom and buds, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. 'Alleluia, Christ is Risen!' we cry, and the reply is 'He is risen indeed, Alleluia!' And then we remember the news: Ukraine; continuing Covid, even in a milder form; the rising cost of living and inflation. It's easy to be sad and depressed. But Easter isn't just for the sunny, Spring times. Its message is that when all seems lost there is still hope. On Good Friday we remember Jesus' death on the cross, when evil seemed to have triumphed. On the first Easter Day, in the mysterious half-light of early dawn, Jesus returned to life. 'Christ is Risen!' is a call to celebration but also a murmur of hope. It's to be sung loudly, but also whispered, too: 'He is risen indeed! Alleluia!'

Richard Cooke, Rector

## Holy Week

<b>Wednesday 13 April</b>	7.30pm	St Mary's Ilmington . Holy Week Reflection
<b>Maundy Thursday 14 April</b>	7.30pm	St Mary's Preston-on-Stour. Holy Communion
<b>Good Friday 15 April</b>	10.30am	St Peter's Stretton-on-Fosse . Family Service
	2.00pm	St Mary's Ilmington. Last Hour at the Cross
	7.30pm	St Gregory's Tredington . At the Foot of the Cross

Keep up to date with everything that is happening, including the current issue of the Six Parishes Magazine on the church website [https:// fosseway6churches.weebly.com](https://fosseway6churches.weebly.com). 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. If there is anything you would like put up on the site do email it directly to [revfletcher24@gmail.com](mailto:revfletcher24@gmail.com). Have a look! It is regularly updated in these changing times. There are lots of useful links to see!

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

13<sup>th</sup> February Lottie May Malin at Preston-on-Stour

20<sup>th</sup> February Ralph William Goldwater at Ilmington

### Funerals

14<sup>th</sup> February Stephen John Baker at Stretton-on-Fosse

23<sup>rd</sup> February Maurice Leonard Frost at Oakley Wood Crematorium

26<sup>th</sup> February Peter Laurence Clifford, resident of Preston-on-Stour, service held at Walton

4<sup>th</sup> March Jane Watts at Oakley Wood Crematorium

7<sup>th</sup> March Norman Hopkins at Ilmington

## Tom Croker Ekin

Tom Ekin, who died on 7 March aged 92 years, was Rector of Ilmington and Stretton-on-Fosse from 1963 to 1971, during which time he was responsible for the construction of the present Rectory, for the renovation of the schoolhouse to provide accommodation for an Organist, the establishment of a boys choir and also for a successful Stewardship Campaign to establish a regular income for the Church. On leaving the parish he took up an appointment in South Africa where he lived with his family near Durban before

Returning to the UK to take up the appointment as Rector of Moreton-in-Marsh. Subsequently on retirement he had two 'house for duty' appointments, one near Reading and finally at Wrington in Somerset where his funeral took place on 18 March at All Saints Church.

### **Nature Notes April 2022**

It's official, the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries on Earth. Although by open countryside wildlife still needs help. Our gardens can provide that. A small garden pond makes a difference becoming a feeding ground for birds, hedgehogs and bats. No need to dig a hole an old washing-up bowl, a large plant pot, or a disused sink will suffice sitting easily on a garden patio.

1. Choose a light spot not full sunlight.
2. Line your container if not watertight.
3. Layer gravel, stones to create different depths, make a wooden slope for creatures to climb in/out.
4. Fill with rainwater, tap water contains chemicals. Don't use water from another pond it can spread disease.
5. Start planting! Just one or two plants for a small pond e.g. miniature waterlily, flowering rush etc.

Now watch and wait! Wildlife such as water boatmen, pond skaters, frogs may come and visit.

## **WHITCHURCH**

### **St Mary's Whitchurch: Millennial Celebrations! 11 and 12 June 2022**

Join us to commemorate a thousand years of worship in this place.

Lift up your heels: Saturday 11 June. An evening of Song, Story and Dance with The Gospel Bell Collective and The Silver Bough Ceilidh Band Millennium Hall, Preston on Stour 7.00 - 10.00pm. (Bring your own drinks. Donations at the door.)

Lift up your hearts: Sunday 12 June. A service of Holy Communion led by Bishop Christopher Cocksworth and Reverend Canon Richard Cook, St Mary's Whitchurch 11.00 am. Followed by picnic lunch in the churchyard.

### **Notes from a Small Church in the fFeld**

Visitors to our church will note many intriguing features, perhaps the most curious being the low arched recess in the north wall of the chancel, inside the altar rails and just beyond the handsome chest tomb of William Smyth (d. 1442). This recess: was it intended as a future tomb? Or was it perhaps a 'Holy Sepulchre', used in the ancient church at Easter to perform rites commemorative of the resurrection? 'Quem quaeritis?' – 'Whom do you seek?' – is the opening line of the medieval Easter liturgy, the Angel speaking to Mary Magdalene when she finds the 'sepulchre' empty. The dramatic exchange that follows, Mary answering, 'Jesus' and the Angel responding, 'He is not here; he is risen' may be the first beginning of theatre in England, liturgical drama growing into the Mystery Plays that would tell the history of the world from creation to nativity to doomsday. Several centuries ago, did 'Quem quaeritis?' ring out from an empty 'sepulchre' at Whitchurch on Easter morning?

## **PRESTON**

### **Preston Environmental Group (PEG) News**

For the last 7 years PEG has been experimenting with a biodiversity project focused on the green at the entrance to the village. In last month's Parish Magazine we reported our Parish Council had reservations about the project and

have asked us to find a more acceptable way to continue with it. We are presenting our plan to them at the Parish Council meeting on 24th March and hope to be able to report soon that we are able to carry on with the project albeit in a smaller way. PEG now has a Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/groups/1485657988412647](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1485657988412647)) where we intend to post news of the project. For more information please contact Ron Hoe on 777668 E: [ronhoe@me.com](mailto:ronhoe@me.com) or Margaret Brocklehurst on 450710 E: [prestonbrocks@gmail.com](mailto:prestonbrocks@gmail.com)

### **Preston-on-Stour Village Hall**

**Film Night: Friday 29th April** doors open at 7pm for 7.30 start. This month's film will be 'West Side Story'. A Stephen Spielberg remake of the original Broadway musical by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim. The film based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* is set against a backdrop of gang culture in 1950s New York. It promises to be a riot of sound and colour.

**May Day: Back again after two years, Monday 2nd May.** The parade will start at **2.30 pm from the Village Hall**. There will be the crowning of our long awaited May Queen, children's games and tug'o'war on the green, teas and cake, the ever popular Church Warden's Ale, a tombola, stalls selling plants, white elephants and more. This year will see the debut of the 'Preston Dance' led by Morris Dancers processing up the street; maybe setting a new tradition! Don't miss it.

**Platinum Jubilee: 2nd - 5th June** this event is still in the planning but it is hoped that Thursday 2nd will be an outdoor musical event 'PrestFest' featuring some of our local talent. Our usual summer BBQ is to be brought forward to Sunday 5th to gather the village and friends for a celebration at the village hall.

For more details or questions please contact Margaret 01789450710 or [prestonbrocks@gmail.com](mailto:prestonbrocks@gmail.com)

## **TREDINGTON**

### **Tredington and Newbold CofE School**

Recently, we wore red and raised £95 for Heart Heroes. To raise money for Comic Relief, each class ran the equivalent of a marathon during our daily mile time. Some of our pupils took part in our first cluster sports event for two years, curling. After quickly getting to grips with the technique needed, our school came second overall. Well done to two of our pupils who were the first to collect all five SHINE stickers and win the SHINE award.

Our nursery is now taking bookings for any child who turns three between September 2022 and July 2023. Children can start as soon as they are three and can access 15 hours free funding the term after their third birthday. Please contact [admin3214@welearn365.com](mailto:admin3214@welearn365.com) to make a booking as spaces are limited.

### **Tredington and Blackwell WI**

The next WI meeting will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in Tredington and Blackwell WI Hall, Tredington, CV36 4NP, commencing at **7.30pm (please note the new time)**. Our speaker will be Auctioneer Steve Bruce whose talk is entitled 'Behind the Screens'. If you would like to attend this meeting, please contact Patricia Macpherson, telephone 01608 682102 or email [secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk](mailto:secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk). Visitors are always welcome at this friendly WI. Please see our website: <https://tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk> and Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tredingtonandblackwellwi>

### **'There Is More to Tredington than Meets the Eye' Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7-9pm in the WI Hall, Tredington**

Tredington and Blackwell WI is working hard to reduce isolation and loneliness in the community. To this end we are facilitating an **OPEN EVENING** for residents to highlight what is available for them to participate in locally. There has been an

excellent response from local groups including, at the time of writing: Tredington and Blackwell WI; Craft and Chatter; Tredington Film Club; Stour Valley Lions; Shipston on Stour Area u3a; Mike Osborne (Honey producer); Stour Singers; Tredington Bellringers; Stour Area Flood Action Group; Tredington and District Gardening Club; Tredington Art Club and Rector Rev Dr Richard Cooke. For information, please contact Patricia Macpherson, telephone 01608 682102 or email [secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk](mailto:secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk). Please come along on the evening to chat to those involved. We look forward to seeing you!

### **Craft & Chatter**

Join our yarn bombing group on Thursday 8th April, at 2.0pm in the WI Hall in Tredington. We are knitting for the Queens Jubilee Celebrations, decorating the lovely village of Tredington. Just come along or ring me Trish 01789 749185 and enjoy the afternoon.

## **ILMINGTON**

### **St Mary's Easter Lily Appeal**

If you would like to make a donation towards Easter lilies in memory of a loved one, please contact Helen Patrick 07903186722 or leave at the village shop. Thank you.

### **Ilmington Parish Council News March 2022**

Ilmington Parish Council seeks new councillors. Following the resignation of Rob Hawkins, a second vacancy has arisen on the parish council. The council is a small, friendly group of councillors doing their best for the village. This is an exciting time to join us. Proposed projects include renovating the playground and improving the green spaces. If you are interested in becoming a councillor then contact the Clerk or speak with any councillor.

Annual Parish Meeting: Planning is underway for the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 26 May 2022 at Ilmington Village Hall. All residents of the parish are warmly invited. This is meeting of local electors not a formal council meeting. Local groups are invited to update the community on their activities. This gathering has not been possible for the past few years owing to the pandemic, so there will be lots to catch up on. Hope to see you there!

Council Meetings: The council usually meets on the last Thursday of the month in Ilmington Community Shop. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 28 April at the usual start time of 7:30pm. Members of the public are very welcome and there is always an opportunity to ask questions near the start of the meeting.

Contact Us: The Clerk can be reached by email at [ilmingtonpc@outlook.com](mailto:ilmingtonpc@outlook.com) or telephone 01451 885189. Please see noticeboards in Upper and Lower Green or website [www.ilmington.org.uk](http://www.ilmington.org.uk) for the latest information.

### **Ilmington Show: Fabulous at 40: Monday 29th August 2022**

We need willing hands to help on the day, but we'd also appreciate help with planning and organisation. Many hands will make the next Ilmington Show a showstopper to remember. Please contact Show Committee Chairman Alan Wright on 01608 682660, if you are interested.

### **Ilmington Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show**

Celebrate Spring at Ilmington Village Hall, Saturday 2 April 2022 2.00-4.00pm Exhibits of bulbs, flowering shrubs, hellebores, primulas, house plants, flower arranging are welcome from residents and non-residents. There is no charge for entries which will be registered on the day and admission will be only £1. As well as the show there will be teas and a plant Bring and Buy. Schedules are available in the Community Shop.

### Jubilee Jamboree

Ilmington has a great tradition of coming together to celebrate and have a good time! As we emerge from the long separation of the pandemic, The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is coming ... giving us the perfect chance to all GET TOGETHER AGAIN. So please SAVE THIS DATE. On FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2022, at The Red Lion, there will be an amazing JUBILEE JAMBOREE – an evening of village togetherness with music, laughter, singalongs, star turns, comedy, prizes and surprises. Entry will be FREE and EVERYONE is extremely welcome (you may recall previous events we have organised like this)! Further details will follow. For now, if YOU would like to be one of the "turns" (Sing a song? Play a tune? Tell a joke? Read a favourite story or verse?) please contact one of us... Thanks so much, (Poet) Dave Raeburn, 07932 886782, [info@judgethepoet.com](mailto:info@judgethepoet.com); (Actor/Writer) Mark Currey, 07733 010931, [mark-candbill8@gmail.com](mailto:mark-candbill8@gmail.com); (Musical Maestro) Jules Harris, 07949 107432, [julesmusic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:julesmusic@yahoo.co.uk):

### Village Hall - Dates for your Diary

We have two exciting events coming up. First, our ever popular **Quiz Night on Saturday 9 April** and second, a theatre night on **Saturday 14 May featuring Giles Shenton in 'Three Men in a Boat'**. Entry for the quiz will be for teams of up to 6 people and there will be a supper provided within the ticket price of £10. Lis Ribbens will be our quiz master once again and tickets are available from the Community Shop. Giles Shenton gave us an excellent performance of 'Old Herbaceous' back in October and we are delighted to be able to welcome him back for 'Three Men in a Boat'. Tickets will be £10 and available online and from the Community Shop in April.

### Screen on the Green Friday April 29<sup>th</sup>: 'Belfast' (PG13)

This month's film is 'Belfast' a coming-of-age drama, written and directed by Kenneth Branagh, straight from his personal experience. It stars Judi Dench, Ciaran Hinds and Jamie Dornan. It is a joyful film which won Best Picture at the recent Academy Awards, and was nominated for 7 Oscars. It is a feel-good memoir of growing up in Belfast in the 60's, as 'The Troubles' erupted. Doors open at Ilmington Village Hall at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets on sale at Ilmington Community Shop or at the door on night. All welcome! Licensed bar and raffle.

### Ilmington Community Shop and Café: April Diary

We've got lots of lovely events lined up for you in our Community Café. If you'd like to keep up with our news, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram @ilmingtonshop – or sign up for monthly newsletters. Email Michele Hall at

[office@ilmingtonshop.co.uk](mailto:office@ilmingtonshop.co.uk) and we'll do the rest. The dates for your April diaries are:

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Lasagne Lunch: ticketed event

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> **Marketplace @thecafe 10am-2pm**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Bric a Brac Sale

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Puddings Galore: ticketed evening event

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> **Marketplace @thecafe 10am-2pm**

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April May Day BBQ from 12 noon, tickets not required

Please note, the café is closed for normal service on the Saturdays above. Take away drinks are available on Marketplace and sale days.

POST OFFICE: Our outreach service is on a *Tuesday afternoon only* (2pm to 4.30pm) until 21<sup>st</sup> April, when it returns to the usual pattern of Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### The Coven

The fish was delish, the chips were crisp ~ lets do it all again on April 20th. Cheers, Christine.

## Services for April 2022

	<b>St George's Darlingsscott</b>	<b>St Mary's Ilmington</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>3 April</b>		Holy Communion 11.00am	Evensong 6pm	Holy Communion 9.00am	Family Service 10.30am	
<b>10 April Palm Sunday</b>	Morning Worship 11.00am	Holy Communion 9.30am		Family Service 11.00am	Holy Communion 10.30am	
<b>17 April Easter Day</b>	Easter Communion 11.00am	Easter Communion 11.00am	Easter Communion 9.30am	Easter Communion 11.00am	Easter Communion 10.30am	Easter Communion 9.30am
<b>24 April</b>		Evensong 6.00pm	Morning Prayer 11.00am	Holy Communion 9.00am	Holy Communion 11.00am	

### Rector

**Revd Canon Richard Cooke** 0795244820

[Richard.Cooke.Ilmington@Outlook.com](mailto:Richard.Cooke.Ilmington@Outlook.com)

### Associate Minister

Revd Stephen Fletcher 07714171143

### Honorary Assistant Minister Minister with Permission to Officiate Readers

Revd Dr Timothy Seller 01608 682244

Revd Jean Fletcher

Rosanna Wakefield 01608 682146

Malcolm Davies 01789 450793 Anthony Nicholl 01608 239578

### Churchwardens

Tredington

Darlingsscott warden

Ilmington

Preston-on-Stour

Stretton-on-Fosse

Whitchurch

*churchwarden post vacant*

Doreen McCarroll 01608 682949

Jane Downie 01608 682720

Andrew Holman-West 07712193773

*churchwarden post vacant*

Carol Rutter 01789 450795

Helen Patrick

*second churchwarden post vacant*

John Craner 01789 450200

Deadline for the May issue is **16 April**. Copy to Susan Brock [s.brock9@btinternet.com](mailto:s.brock9@btinternet.com), Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington CV36 4LA. T: 01608 682409. To advertise contact Susan Brock as above.





## **ILMINGTON cont.** **Wednesday Club**

A very big thank you to our last presenter who gave us a very entertaining picture of housekeeping in various homes. Cooking and cleaning have taken on a new meaning! **Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th April at 2pm.** Our speaker comes from the Heart of England Trust. This worthy local organisation, based in Dorsington, is a charity that is committed to helping reverse centuries of woodland in decline. Please do come and hear how it was started and how we can all help. Visitors are very welcome.. We have two birthdays in April. If you see Bob Johnson on his daily walk or Simon Waterman please wish them a very happy birthday. Till next time, keep safe.

## **DARLINGSCOTT**

### **St George Church. Darlingscott**

The Annual General Meeting will be held at St. George Church, Darlingscott, on Tuesday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm please join us. Election of officers, what we have achieved over the last year and hope to achieve in the future.

## **OUTSIDE THE PARISHES**

### **Townsend Hall Shipston-on-Stour**

We've had two sell-outs! - "Just Take That" and "Tom Spats Langham's Hot Fingers". In April we have "Bateman Bros Jazz Band" Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April - tickets available from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/townsend-hall> or from A. Clarke Electrical Services - see <http://www.ianbateman.com/bateman-brothers-jazz-band> to whet your appetite. May brings a 60's experience and we've got yet more great jazz with "Sally Minchin's String Quintet". If you haven't given jazz a go before, we urge you to try us out - it's a great night and you get to see some top musicians. We're a venue funded as a charity, so please keep supporting us by attending our events and at the many clubs / sports we have available. Visit us at [www.townsendhall.co.uk](http://www.townsendhall.co.uk) and our FaceBook page to find

### **Stour Singers Present Dvorak and Mozart in Concert**

Stour Singers are delighted to present a concert at St. Edmund's Church in Shipston on Saturday evening 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30.p.m., featuring Dvorak's Mass in D and Mozart's Solemn Vespers. Alan Fairs (bass baritone) and Cathy Bell (mezzo) return to sing with the choir, and are joined by Ana Beard Fernandez (soprano), Daniel Joy (tenor) and Ashley Wagner (organist). Dvorak composed his melodic Mass in D in 1887 for the architect Josef Hlavka, for the consecration of the private chapel Hlavka had built onto his palace. A century earlier, Mozart wrote the Vespers as his final choral work for Salzburg Cathedral. Concert-goers will be moved by the lyrical Laudate Dominum, as part of this concert. Tickets are available at a cost of £12.50 (free to accompanied children) from A. Clarke in Shipston High Street, and from choir members.

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Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
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o Email / Phone David: [ds@pinnegards.com](mailto:ds@pinnegards.com); 07511-694733

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