

The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No. 14 May 2024



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The Downs and Valley Churches Service Rota May 2024

May 2024	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
5 th Easter 6		11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship
12 th Sunday after Ascension	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion (1662)		11.00am Holy Communion	
19 th Pentecost		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)
26 th Trinity Sunday	4.00pm Evening Worship (1662)	5.00pm Evensong (1662)	11.00am Morning Worship		11.00am Holy Communion	

Church web-pages - For further information, please search for the Church name and click on the relevant 'A Church Near You' page. (This is more effective than searching 'A Church Near You' directly.)

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 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)
 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)

Richard Cooke, the Rector, writes...

Spring is all around us

Spring is all around us, despite a very wet start to 2024, and there's been an early blessing of bluebells this year, which always lifts the heart. There are two lovely concepts first developed in the Middle Ages which always come to my mind at this time of year; because they are Medieval they are, of course, in Latin, but don't let that put you off! Neither translates easily into English, but they are words to conjure with as the Spring gathers pace around us.

The first is *viriditas*, an idea developed by the German Abbess and spiritual writer Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179). It means, literally, 'greenness' but also vitality, fecundity, flourishing, growth, and catches a sense of life bursting into its fullness. When I first flew back from travelling in Africa I remember just how green and lush England looked from the air, an almost overwhelming sense of *viriditas* hit me, and the experience has been repeated almost every time I've travelled back to this country after being somewhere warmer. For Hildegard *viriditas* was a sense of the life of God flowing through the world, connecting people and the natural world like the sap running through a tree or plant. She saw it as a healing power, that enables humans to produce all sorts of creative work (she herself was a very skilled musician and her compositions are well worth sampling). The idea of *viriditas* came briefly to attention during the Pandemic, when so much human activity ceased, the Spring seemed so much more vivid without motor traffic (or perhaps because we had more time to look around us), and places like the polluted canals of Venice gradually flowed with clear water once again, as if nature itself was being healed.

The second idea is *haecceitas*, which the philosopher Duns Scotus ('John the Scot', 1265-1308) or his followers coined to catch the individuality or, literally, 'this-ness' of something. What makes each plant or flower unique? Scotus was not so much interested in classifying and grouping things as exploring what made them, them and observing them in all their own idiosyncratic detail. For him the abundant individuality of the natural world was a marvel that underlined his belief in God's creation of it. The unique pattern of a leaf, the complex colours of the feather on a bird's wing, these are the things that made Scotus wonder. Taking time to look at an individual tree, bird or butterfly and and even, perhaps, ourselves.

seek out its *haecceitas* – stopping briefly on a walk, or just pausing in a garden to do so - can be very rewarding. It might also lead us to reflect on what is special and unique about other people we know too, and even, perhaps, ourselves.

These two ancient concepts both have roots in the Gospel of John, the fourth and deepest of the Gospels, which sees all of creation growing out of the life of God. They come into their own each Spring for me. Let's rejoice in the *viriditas* and *haecceitas* all around us!

Ilmington Open Gardens Evensong, 26 May at 5.00pm

Ilmington's regular Evensong service is at 5.00pm instead of the usual 6.00pm on Sunday 26 May to be part of the Open Gardens Weekend – it's a traditional service with rousing hymns and light refreshments in the churchyard to follow!

The Downs & Valley Magazine is intended as a forum for village news from within the Parishes of Ilmington, Stretton-on-Fosse, Whitchurch, Preston-on-Stour, Tredington and Darlingscott. Opinions expressed are those of the individuals contributing and the publication of these and of news items does not imply support for those opinions or items by the churches.

From the Registers

Banns of Marriage

At Ilmington on 31 March, 7 April, 14 April, Charlotte Horton and Leo Brice of Herne Hill, London (wedding at Ilmington on 18 May); Rebecca Harvey and Aaron Marriott (wedding at Ilmington on 15 June); Emily Morrison and Duncan Smith of Woodstock (wedding at Ilmington on 22 June)

At Whitchurch on 31 March, 7, 21 April, Amanda Partridge and Joe McRoberts of Shipston-on-Stour (wedding at Whitchurch on 18 May)
At Preston-on-Stour on 31 March, 7, 14 April, Harriet Smith and Mark Jinks of Henley-on-Thames (wedding at Preston on 8 June)
At Tredington 7, 14, 21 April, Joshua Bee and Rianna Croxford of West Hampstead, (wedding at Tredington on 9 June)

Funerals

At St Mary's Ilmington on 5 April, 'Sid' Betteridge, aged 78 (followed on 7 April by cremation at Oakley Wood)

At St Gregory's, Tredington on 24 April, memorial service for David Botterill, aged 84 (preceded by cremation at Oakley Wood)

At St Peter's, Stretton-on-Fosse on 29 April, Cecily ('Cis') Vick, aged 97 (followed by burial in the churchyard)

Editor's Note

Some of our readers may have spotted the April Fool in last month's magazine. Apologies for any offence it may have given. The *deadline for copy for the June 2024 issue is Saturday 18 May* to Susan Brock, Editor, E. s.brock9@btinternet.com, Daisy Cottage, Front St., Ilmington, CV36 4LA. Please note that the limit for editorial articles is 150 words. Enquiries about advertising to Tim Seller: E. Tim.Seller@outlook.com, Long Barn, Back St., Ilmington, CV36 4LJ. The image on this month's cover is by Steve Prosser of Ilmington. I'm always looking for artwork so if you have a painting, drawing or photograph which you would like to submit, email it to me, Susan Brock, as a jpg or PDF file (portrait layout). Age is no barrier! No computer? Drop it round to my house (see address above) and I'll scan it for you.
Susan Brock, Editor

Shipston Medical Centre - Patient Participation Group . Patient Meeting Tuesday 21st May at 7.15in the Townsend Hall, Sheep Street Shipston

Meet the Partners - Share your feedback on current services. Help us to shape future services.
Kathy Little, Tredington.

Nature Notes May 2024

Looking around us we can see our surroundings are full of colour. The vibrancy of new green leaves. Not just one green but many shades of green. There are many shades of blue. The beautiful colours of reds, orange reds, yellows and the palest of pinks in a sunset. Look at a rainbow or the deepest darkest night sky with the beautiful moon, stars and planets. The blackthorn blossom being replaced by May blossom. The vibrant yellow of marsh marigolds and earlier on the celandines. The delicate beauty of a daisy with its white petals tinged with pink and a bright yellow button centre. God has provided us with such a rich diversity of colour and created a beautiful world for us to live in. God saw all that He had made and it was very good (Gen 1:31). As Louis Armstrong sang "what a wonderful world".
Gill

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Community Shop and Café

Spring is sprung and we are keen to welcome you to Ilmington Community Café. We kick off with Book Club @thecafe on Tuesday 7th May at 2pm: it's very informal. Then you'll need to book for our Spring Supper on Friday 17th May at 6.30pm. Our long-table suppers are hugely popular and great value at £20 for three courses with

drinks. Our May menu is Smoked Salmon Terrine, Lamb Tagine with Mint Couscous and Lemon Cheesecake – please call us on 682838. On 22nd May we have Knit & Natter at 2pm (if you can't knit you can always natter!) Finally, we need your help on Saturday 25th May for Ilmington Open Gardens. We need your homemade cake and all hands on deck! Let us know if you can help and a big thank you.
Ilmington Shop & Café Committee

Ilmington Horticultural Society: Plant Sale

Yet another opportunity to purchase some new homegrown plants for your garden at bargain prices. Sunday 26 May 12-2pm at the Pound opposite the Village Hall
Susan Brock, Secretary

Ilmington Screen-on-the-Green: North by Northwest (PG)

For our film on Friday 31 May we are turning back the clock with a classic movie: Alfred Hitchcock's North by Northwest, starring Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint and James Mason, is regularly voted among the greatest films of all time - and in its 65th anniversary year this is a chance for new and old audiences alike to enjoy the fast-paced thriller about an advertising executive who goes on the run after being mistaken for a spy. With suspense, comedy and romance, what more could you ask? Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start at Ilmington Village Hall. Tickets £4 from the Village Shop, although some are available on the door. Licensed bar and raffle.
Lis Ribbans, Ilmington Cinema Group

Ilmington Village Hall

My Dog's Got No Nose. Theatre on Saturday 25 May - tickets £12 from the Community Shop. You join the man as he prepares back-stage for his first ever stand-up comedy gig. Something he has waited over 30 years for. Find out how he got to this point in his life.....but be warned.....the man and the performance are not quite what they seem! "Giles Shenton held his audience's attention for nearly two hours; their interest or curiosity in the first half and then to have them fully engrossed in the second before a shocked silence when you could hear a pin drop in the auditorium." (Alton Herald).

Regular wellbeing activities:

- Table tennis on Tuesdays 2:00-3:00pm
- Kurling on Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm
- Tai Chi on Fridays 11:15-12:15pm except for the last Friday of the month when it is 1:00-2:00pm

Bryan Clifford, Chair

Next Wednesday Club Meeting on 8th May: 2pm

Due to an accident, our Samaritan speaker was unable to deliver! Luckily for us, our May presenter, a Chi Gong practitioner stepped in and gave us an excellent lesson. A big thank you goes to

Alissa for showing us how to improve our wellbeing. Our next meeting is when we hope to have our Samaritan speaker again. Broken ribs are very painful so we hope he will be able to speak!

May seems to be a popular month for birthdays as we have Glynis Cooper first on 8th, Edith Tuohy on 21st who will be 102 this year and finally Carmel Greenwood on 23rd. Have a lovely birthday ladies! On a visit to see Edith and Christine Warmington at Low Fur-long, I found them both in good spirits. They love having visitors and of course, one of them will be celebrating a birthday soon.

Carole Clifford, Chair

2024 Ilmington Show August Bank Holiday Monday

Help celebrate the show's 42nd year by booking a trade or craft stand – only £25 for a 3m pitch (£15 for Ilmington organisations and businesses). We are also looking for craft demonstrations – last year we had a stonemason who drew a great deal of interest. We are non-profit making, and each year disbursements are made to charities and organisations of value to the local community. Last year we attracted more than 4,000 people. We hope 2024 will be better than ever, potentially bringing you lots of new customers. You'll be able to set up on the day from 10am – just bring a table (or we'll supply one for £3) plus gazebo and chairs. If you can't make it, you can promote your business and support the show by being a sponsor.

For further information or to book your place via ilmington-show@gmail.com.

Nigel Dunn, Ilmington Show Committee

PRESTON-ON –STOUR

May Day - 2.30pm Monday 6th May

Our annual May Day festivities begin with the May Queen's parade from the village hall car park starting at 2.30 and the crowning on the green. There will be a licensed bar, teas, cakes, children's games, dancing and many stalls. This is our main outdoor village event so please come and support us.

Film Night - 7 for 7.30pm Friday 24th May

'Anatomy of a Fall' is our film of the month. A story set in France featuring the moral dilemma of a partially sighted boy who witnesses the murder of his father.

PrestFest - from midday on Saturday 22nd June

This will be the third year in celebration of our prestigious local musical talent. We already have several acts lined up and welcome any newcomers, just let me know if you or your band would like to play. The venue is the village green (or hall should it rain) and spectators please bring rugs, chairs, picnics and enjoy an afternoon of music.

Margaret Brocklehurst

STRETTON-ON-FOSSE

Stretton Greenfingers Garden Club Plant Sale **Saturday 18 May, Stretton Village Hall 10am to 12 noon**

Please bring any plants you can spare for sale from 9.30 am. Please note, no plants will be sold before 10 am. Refreshments available. Come and bag a horticultural bargain!

Marianne Robinson, Secretary

TREDINGTON with DARLINGSCOTT

CPR & Defib Training Session

Shipston First Responders are running a CPR & defibrillator training session on Tuesday 4th June 6-8pm at Blackwell Village Hall. All welcome. For more information contact Colette 01608 682272.

Colette Nock

Shipston Home Nursing – Plant Sales!

Our popular table top plant and home produce sales are back on the weekend of 11th and 12th May with stalls in 14 villages around the area including Tredington and Halford. If you are able to donate plants or produce, we would love to hear from you at fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk. For a full list of stalls, visit www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk.

Kate Bamford, Head of Fundraising and Communications

Spring Lunch in the WI Hall, Tredington **on Sunday 5 May at 12.30**

Do join us for a lunch of roast pork, roast potatoes and all the trimmings, followed by a choice of lovely puddings, cheese and biscuits, tea/coffee. We are asking people to pay £15 and all profits and donations will be given to our local First Responders. Bring your own wine, soft drinks provided, glasses are available. If you would like a vegetarian option, or have any other diet allergies, please let us know. Write your name as soon as possible on the list just inside the church on the left hand table. Do join us - especially newcomers to the village - you are very welcome. More information Sarah Taylor 662782.

Jenny Plenderleith

Tredington & Blackwell WI

Our next WI meeting in the WI Hall is on Thursday 9th May at 7pm. This will be a social meeting, including a film. All women are welcome – if you'd like to attend (Guests £5), please contact Gill by text to 07789 810877, or email secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk

Gill Goodlad, Secretary

Tredington & District Garden Club

The next meeting is in the WI Hall on Thursday 16th May. We open at 7pm with the bar available, then begin our meeting at

7.30pm. Our speaker is Nathalie Mignotte, on the subject of the Landscapes of Vietnam & Cambodia Landscapes of Vietnam & Cambodia. Items are welcome for the free 'bring and share' table. . If you'd like to know more about the club see

www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com

Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Coffee Morning & Plant Sale

Tredington & District Garden Club invites you to their coffee morning and plant sale on Saturday 1st June 10.30am – 12.30pm. Admission is free. Plants and garden sundries will be available for sale and there will be a 'gardening-related' raffle.

Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Craft & Chatter / Chatter & Craft

The next **Craft & Chatter** is in the WI Hall on Monday 20th May at 2pm, with a charge of just £1 towards tea or coffee and cake. Please note there is no Craft & Chatter on 2nd May due to the election. For details contact Vanessa on 07818 599353 or email

vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk

Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Community Film Night

Our next film, in the WI Hall, CV36 4NP, will be on Friday 7th June. This British film (2022), based on a play by Alan Bennett, tells the amusing and moving tale of the efforts to save an elderly care ward that is threatened with closure. It is certificate 12. The bar opens at 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. We include a short interval when the bar and ice creams are available. Non-members are welcome and are invited to make a voluntary donation. For details of this film, or the programme of all films for 2024, contact Gill at treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk or text 07789 810877.

Gill Goodlad, Treasurer

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These popular classes are based on ancient techniques that are shown to reduce stress and enhance energy levels. They are suitable to those with all levels of experience (or none) and may be done seated or standing. Classes by Alissa Powell are on Fridays 9.30-10.30am. To book a place visit <https://breath-therapy.uk/events/> or email Alissa at alissa@breath-therapy.uk for more information. £7.00 per person per class.

Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Welcome to Tredington Booklet

The WI maintains a directory of local activities and services. It can be downloaded at <https://tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk/welcome-to-tredington>. If you would like your group or activity to be included, or to update an existing listing, please contact Gill at secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk.

Gill Goodlad, Secretary

WHITCHURCH

Like our homes and farm buildings, our rural churches have constantly needed maintenance. At Easter 1659 parishioners petitioned 'the Lords Commissioners for the custody of the Great Seal' in London for assistance 'with the repairs to the church of Whitechurch'. After 'a late great tempest', 'the whole roof and body of the church' was 'fallen down and the steeple shattered'. They requested £600 (and were permitted to sell two of their three church bells to raise funds). Five years later, 'the parish hath repaired the walles, finished the roof, glazed the Church, and hung up the Bell, and intend speedily to finish what remains to be done as to the inside of the Church'. Now, after more than three centuries, some of that glazing needs repairing, most urgently, the tracery lights above the east window and the medieval glass in the north and south chancel windows. We've received a generous legacy and another substantial donation but we're still £4000 short of the final cost of £24,000. If you'd like to help, please contact johncraner682@gmail.com or c.rutter@warwick.ac.uk
Carol Rutter, Churchwarden

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

Stour Singers present our Spring Concert at **St Edmund's Church, Shipston-on-Stour, on Saturday 18th May at 7.30pm**. Featuring Haydn's nelson mass, Mozart's Dixit and Laudate Dominum, and Purcell's Te Deum and Jubilate. Conducted by Richard Emms and accompanied by the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Orchestra. With Louise Wayman, soprano, Judith Le Breuille, mezzo soprano, Matthew Pochin, tenor and James Birchall, bass-baritone (by arrangement with Ann Ferrier Artists). For tickets go to www.ticketsource.co.uk/stour-singers or purchase on the door. We hope you can join us.
Gayle Burch

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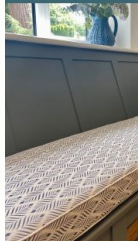
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Directed by Simon Downing

"puts one in mind of Alan Bennett's Talking Heads"

A stand-up
comedian
tells his
story.



You'll die...
laughing.

"Giles Shenton gifts
us with another
tour de force,
catch it while
you can"

starring
Giles Shenton
(Old Herbaceous &
Three Men in a Boat)

"a thought
provoking and
high quality
production"

"A remarkable performance"

"One of the most powerful depictions
of emotion that I have seen from an actor"

Ilmington Village Hall

Sat 25 May 2024 7.30pm

TICKETS £12 FROM ILMINGTON COMMUNITY SHOP

OR ONLINE AT WWW.GILESSHENTONPRODUCTIONS.CO.UK



I AM EXCITED TO BE IN A POSITION TO HELP OTHERS ACHIEVE THEIR TRAVEL GOALS

I have been fortunate to travel extensively throughout Europe, Southern and Central America, and Southern Africa. As a result I have first hand experience of a wide variety of destinations and holiday types.

On those travels I have been fortunate to amass amazing memories from tracking elephants in Botswana, cruising the Galapagos Islands, entering Machu Pichu via the Sun Gate at the end of the Inca Trail.

Please feel free to contact me, as I would welcome the opportunity to help you build your own fond travel memories.



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