

The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No. 17 Aug. 2024



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Downs and Valley Churches Service Rota August 2024

August 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
4 th Trinity 10		11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	6:00pm Evensong (1662)	No Service	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship
11 th Trinity 11	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion (1662)		11.00am Holy Communion	
18 th Trinity 12		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)
25 th Trinity 13	4.00pm Evening Worship (1662)	6.00pm 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.)

Parish Giving Scheme – we gladly receive regular or one-off gifts through PGS, which can be found at <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/>

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:

Desire Paths

A spell of fine weather at last, and what feels like months of muddy dog-walking under leaden skies give way to bright mornings with firm soil underfoot. But where shall we go today?

In our little patch of South Warwickshire we're blessed with plenty of paths to follow, Like many others, I found an unexpected bonus of the Covid lockdowns was the opportunity to get to know the footpaths around where we lived, and I set myself the task of walking all the public footpaths of that parish. Though my walks were, necessarily, solitary (apart from a dog), I became aware that others were travelling these paths too, and sometimes branching off to find their own way. In one place, where a path separated in a Y shape, a new path began to emerge across the top of the Y. It turned out that we were re-opening a very old path that had been disused for decades, which you could see marked on some old maps. I also gradually became aware that there were other, more lightly-trodden paths around, too, as I learned to spot the trails that led to holes in hedges, some fox-sized, others big enough for a deer to squeeze through. All sorts of animals were making their way, usually invisible to us humans, with a fine disregard for the official routes. The extra paths, some new, some reclaimed from the past, I found were called 'desire paths', created by gentle feet falling softly on the earth and gradually making a way that became visible to others, and then followed by many.

Some of the oldest 'desire paths' are, of course, pilgrimage routes to sacred places. Those spots, often remote, where saintly figures had been buried, became places to which pilgrims made their way, beating out the paths as they went. These were, if you like, spiritual 'desire paths', and took their inspiration from the ancient Jewish practice of pilgrimage to the Jerusalem Temple each year for Passover. There the pilgrims would sing the 'Psalms of Ascent' (Psalms 120-134) as they slogged up from Jericho, until they reached the top of the hill and saw the city and its Temple laid out before them on the other side of the valley.

In these Summer months, why not turn your feet one fine day for at least one walk into one of the Churches in our group, as a kind of pilgrimage? When you get there, you'll know that many others, many generations ago, have pioneered the 'desire path' to get there, and found something of the presence of God in the cool and calm. Well-behaved dogs are welcome too!



A big Thank You to all those who contributed to 'Tea at the Rectory' on 14 July, running stalls and teas, making cakes and scones, providing plants and a pop-up museum - and coming to spend money too! We raised around £600 for the Downs and Valley Churches.

Front Cover Image: Thanks to Harriet Smith & Mark Jinks for permission to use the image of their wedding at Preston-on-Stour Church on 8 June. Photo by Charlotte Wright Photography.

From the Registers

Banns of Marriage

At Ilmington on 14, 21, 28 July, between Thomas Walne-Hampson and Jessica Longbottom. (Marriage to take place at Ilmington on 31 August 2024.)

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.

Editor's Note

The deadline for copy for the September 2024 issue is **Saturday 17 August** 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 a special to celebrate the many wedding celebrations held this summer. 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

Nature Notes August 2024

Lavender is a great garden plant to have. It is wonderful for wildlife attracting bees and butterflies to its nectar and pollen providing a natural food source. Bees, in particular, rely on its floral resources for their survival and to support their colonies. By planting lavender, you create a nutritious feeding ground for these beneficial insects. Lavender will provide a natural pest control in your garden and shelter for small insects, spiders etc. It can be dried and used to prevent moth damage to clothes and also beautiful scented sachets. Lavender it is believed can help with headaches, to relax, to treat insect bites etc. In WW1 it was used to disinfect the walls and floors in hospitals. It is also used to flavour food, sugar and to make tea. God provided plants for our benefit and many of them are used in modern medicine today.
Gill

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Show

You'll find the full programme with this magazine. It contains all the information you need to enjoy the highlight of the Ilmington year on Bank Holiday Monday. There's still time to volunteer to help. Contact Paul Dakin, paul.r.dakin@btinternet.com, to find out how. And don't forget to follow the Show on Facebook. See you there.
Ilmington Show Committee

Ilmington Horticultural Society Annual Show 2024

A reminder that it's less than four weeks until this year's show of fruit, flowers, vegetables, cookery and crafts which will take place on Monday 26 August as part of Ilmington Show. There's no advance registration. Just show up at the Marquee on the Playing Fields between 8 and 10am on the day with your entries and a completed entry form. Anyone can enter whether they live in Ilmington or outside the village and there are special classes for children so all the family can join in. Bring along your best flowers, vegetables, jams, cakes, wines, photos and art and crafts and win trophies. Schedules and entry forms are available at Ilmington Community Shop and online at <https://ilmington-pc.gov.uk/ilmington-horticultural-society>.
Susan Brock, Hon. Sec.

Shipston Home Nursing

Shipston Home Nursing would like to thank the wonderful community of Ilmington for their generous support during the Ilmington Open Gardens weekend. We were so grateful to receive a donation of £2227 from the National Garden Scheme, and £700 from Ilmington Community Shop and Café. Shipston Home Nursing cares for people with life limiting illnesses in Shipston, Wellesbourne, Kineton and the surrounding villages. Our service is completely free of charge and available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Thank you Ilmington.
Kate Bamford, Head of Fundraising & Communications, Shipston

Wednesday Club Next Meeting; 14th August at the Manor House

The 'butterfly walk' was a great success even though the variety of butterflies was somewhat subdued to previous years! The beautiful views, the delicious cakes and tea in the lovely setting of Blackberry Farm gardens and of course, the very entertaining host, Richard Grey, certainly made up for the lack of butterflies. Sadly, Richard was talking about stopping these July events so a very big thank you to him for giving us such pleasure each year.

Our next meeting is the Garden Party at the Manor House on 14th August at 2pm. Martin Taylor has kindly invited us to hold our tea party in the Music room again and weather permitting, to see his gardens. Thank you Martin.

We have four birthdays for the month of August. Margaret Goldsmith, although now moved away, celebrates on 5th, Philip Patton on 10th, Tony Wilkins on 16th and finally, Irene Sabin on 28th. Unfortunately, Tony is in hospital at the moment so we all wish him a full recovery. Happy birthday everyone!

August sees the Ilmington Show on 26th so please come along and support the Wednesday Club stalls. Hopefully we will see you all there!

Carole Clifford, Chair

Ilmington Community Shop and Cafe Your Shop Needs You!

First, an appeal for volunteers! We need more hands on deck, whether in the shop or café, and we'd love to hear from you if you can spare a few hours a week. Training and support are provided – it's a great way to help out and make new friends. Please call Michele or Laura on 01608 682838 to find out more.

Dates for your August diary: 6th August is Book Club from 2pm in the Community Café. Knit and Natter is on 28th August at the same time. Baby Group is potentially every Wednesday at 10am: maybe bring a friend and get a new gang going? And don't forget to come and see us at the fabulous Ilmington Show on Monday 26th August!

Ilmington Community Shop Committee

Ilmington Village Hall: Saturday 3 August Audrey Hepburn, all she wanted was to be loved and to find love.

Glimpse behind the icon in this new biopic play written and performed by Helen Anker. Have you ever wondered what is behind the seemingly idyllic life of Audrey Hepburn? She was, and continues to be, an inspiration. In **The Essence of Audrey** she shares her successes and failures, her triumphs and disappointments, confronting her anxieties and fears and finding the truth she's never been able to voice before. Helen Anker has appeared in many shows in the West End and on Broadway, and in numerous regional productions. She is excited to share with you her one-woman play about the life of Audrey

Hepburn , which she wrote and created herself during lockdown. Tickets are £12.50 from the Community Shop. Doors/bar open at 7:00 for 7:30 start.

Wellbeing events: Table tennis on Tuesdays 2:00-3:00pm; Kurling on Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm; and, Tai Chi which moves to Mondays 09:30-10:30 from 2nd September.

Bryan Clifford, Chair

PRESTON-ON –STOUR

Preston Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting of the hall will be held at 7pm in the hall on Tuesday 3rd September. This is your chance to let us know what you would like to see happening in the hall. All suggestions welcome at or before the AGM.

Preston Film Night

Please note that there will be a holiday break for August and September. Hopefully back in October. Thank you to all who have been supporting us.

Margaret Brocklehurst

Antique & Collectables Roadshow

This will be a fundraiser for the Preston Environmental Group to be held in the village hall on Saturday 5th October 10.30 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 4.00pm. Renowned TV auctioneer, valuer and raconteur Mark Ashley will be in Preston to comment on and value your treasures. £5 entry to present two items (photos of large objects please) or just come along and enjoy the banter, tea/coffee included. Enquiries to Margaret Brocklehurst on 01789 450710 or E: prestonbrocks@gmail.com.

STRETTON ON FOSSE

Stretton Churchyard Needs You.

For many years the grass around the church has been cut by approximately 14 volunteers who each cut the grass once per year. It takes anywhere from 2-4 hours and doesn't have to be done in one go. I would like to thank all the volunteers but we need more. Recently a few have moved away or stopped cutting the grass for other reasons so we are looking for more volunteers to give 2-4 hours a year of their time to help the village. A good lawnmower is provided and I'm happy to answer any questions. if you would like to volunteer or discuss further please email me at davidcornercotage@gmail.com or contact me on my phone 0785 4782786 or knock on my door. Many thanks and look forward to hearing from you.

David Williams

Stretton on Fosse Annual Village Show

The show is taking place on Saturday 17th August from 2.15 pm. Entries to the show accepted from 9 am to 11 am, 30p per entry, children's classes free. Classes include produce, baking, preserves, art and craft and children's. Prizes, 1st £1.00, 2nd 75p, 3rd 50p. Fun Dog Show, entries from 2 pm at the gazebo - 30p per class. Lots of fun for all the family! Class schedule viewable on <https://www.strettononfosse.com/villageshow>.

Marianne Robinson

Stretton-on-Fosse Preloved Sale and Cream Tea Sunday 8th September 2 - 5.30pm

If you are having a clear out, hoping to pick up a bargain, or simply fancy a browse before some tea and cake, then make a note in your diaries that Stretton Toddler Group is hosting a preloved sale in Stretton-on-Fosse on Sunday 8th September from 2-5pm. Grass pitches next to the village hall (postcode GL56 9SR) are available to book at £6 each, payable in advance to Stretton Toddler Group, with 100 per cent of pitch fees going to support this group, which has been welcoming pre-schoolers and their families for over 40 years. All bric-a-brac is welcome (this is not limited to the sale of baby and toddler-related items). Delicious cream tea refreshments will also be available in the village hall from 2.30-5.30pm. Everyone welcome. Please contact Stacey on 07908726596 for details and to book your pitch.

Elizabeth Everett

TREDINGTON WITH DARLINGSOTT

St George's Church Darlingscott

We have sorted the books that are in the schoolroom at the church and now have a different selection, if anyone would like to have a look please do, they are on the tables in the schoolroom, if you would like to have something to read please make your choice, and if you would like to make a donation it would be appreciated and would go to church funds. Please do not leave any more books for the time being. Thank you.

Doreen McCarroll, Churchwarden

Tredington & Blackwell WI

Our next WI meeting will be held in the WI Hall at 7pm on Thursday 8th August, when Richard Hayden will talk about his career as a patissiere. The evening will include light refreshments and a brief business meeting. All women are welcome (Guests £5). For more information, please contact Gill by text to 07789 810877, or email secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk.

Gill Goodlad, WI Secretary

Craft & Chatter

Craft & Chatter will meet at 2pm on Thursday 1st August in the WI Hall. This is a social event, with plenty of conversation, tea & cake, whilst the craft is optional. Admission is £1 and no membership required. For more information contact Vanessa on 07818 599353 or vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk
Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Community Film Night

Our next film is on Friday 2nd August in the WI Hall. Doors open at 7pm, with bar available, and the film begins at 7.30pm. It is the story of "a father and son's journey of love, life (& pasta)" set in Tuscany. Released in 2020, it is certificate 15 and runs for 90 minutes with a short interval for ice creams. Our licence restricts the details that can be advertised, but are available via a film email group. To book your places (or find out more/join the email group) contact Gill via text to 07789 810877 or email gillgoodlad@hotmail.com.
Gill Goodlad, WI Treasurer

Tredington & District Garden Club

There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be on Thursday 19th September at 7pm. For more information see www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com
Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary

Qigong (Movement, Breathwork & Meditation)

These popular techniques that are shown to reduce stress and enhance energy levels. They are suitable for those with all levels of experience (or none) and may be done seated or standing. Classes by Alissa Powell are on Fridays in the hall, 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 class.
Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Hold The Date

The next Community Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper will be held in the WI Hall on Friday 27th September at 6.30pm. More details in the next issue.
Gill Goodlad, WI Secretary

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

Shipston Home Nursing

September sees two fantastic outdoor events, raising funds for Shipston Home Nursing, hospice care at home.
Sunday 8th September is the Walton Hall 10k run / walk,

starting and finishing in the beautiful grounds of Walton Hall near Wellesbourne as an individual or gather a group of friends or colleagues to enter as a team. When you register you can also set up your own fundraising page which enables friends and family to support you and Shipston Home Nursing.

On Friday 20th September, we'll be hosting our annual golf day at Feldon Valley near Brailes. It's a great day in beautiful surroundings and includes coffee and bacon rolls on arrival, 18-holes of golf and a two-course lunch. There will also be drinks available on the course, a raffle and an auction!

For further information and to enter, please visit

www.shipstonhomenursing.co.uk or contact the fundraising team at fundraising@shipstonhomenursing.co.uk.

Kate Bamford, Head of Fundraising & Communications, Shipston Home Nursing

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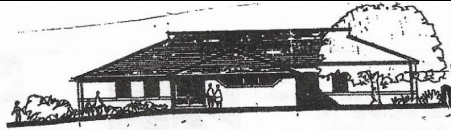
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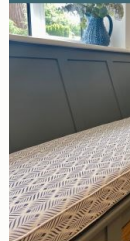
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Please feel free to contact me, as I would welcome the opportunity to help you build your own fond travel memories.



Rob Kennedy

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