

A photograph of a traditional thatched cottage with a stone chimney and a gabled roof. In the foreground, there are several pink magnolia flowers in various stages of bloom, some fully open and some as buds. The flowers are set against a backdrop of a green hedge and a clear blue sky with light clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

**The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No. 13 Apr. 2024**

## Tilly Seccombe and Harry Purcell – Would you sign the Petition?



Tilly and Harry were tragically killed with their friend Frank Wormald in a car crash last April. All of them were in their first year of studying for A levels at Chipping Camden School. Tilly lived in Preston-on-Stour and Harry in Blackwell. They became, suddenly and without warning, part of the grim statistics of UK road deaths amongst young people:

- 1 in 5 new drivers have a crash within 6 months of passing their test;
- Young drivers are 4 times more likely to crash if they are carrying passengers;
- Young drivers are up to 69% more likely to crash on a rural road.

Tilly and Harry's mothers, Juliet and Toni, are supporting a petition to introduce a Graduated Driving Licence (GDL) which now has almost 20,000 signatures. 100,000 signatures would mean the issue must be considered for debate in Parliament. GDL is proven in many other countries to reduce the number of young deaths. Juliet and Toni want to help other parents avoid the terrible pain they and their families have endured since Tilly and Harry's deaths.

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for young people in the UK, alongside knife crime, terrorism and substance misuse. Yet road deaths seem to get overlooked compared to the other causes. Juliet says, 'Young people are the group most likely to pass their test yet the most likely to crash and cause serious injuries and death to themselves or others in their first year of driving. The aim is to give young learners the opportunity to gain experience without the responsibility and distraction of taking peer age passengers for the first 12 months of passing their tests. Crashes are usually down to a combination of youth and inexperience meaning young drivers are less likely to spot hazards as their brain is focused on the motor skills and their youth means they are more likely to take risks.'



By introducing some simple restrictions for young drivers on carrying peer-age passengers many lives could be saved.

If you'd like to know more, see <https://www.brake.org.uk/how-we-help/national-campaigns/the-change-we-want/drivers/young-drivers-and-gdl> or search for 'GDL'. To sign the petition please go to: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/655298>

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## The Downs and Valley Churches Service Rota April 2024

| April 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          |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7 <sup>th</sup>        |                              | 11.00am Holy Communion (1662) | 6.00pm Evensong (1662)       |                              | 11.00am Morning Worship | 9.30am Morning Prayer         |
| <b>Easter 2</b>        |                              |                               |                              |                              |                         |                               |
| <b>14<sup>th</sup></b> |                              |                               |                              |                              |                         |                               |
| <b>Easter 3</b>        |                              | 11.00am Morning Worship       | 9.30am Holy Communion (1662) |                              | 11.00am Holy Communion  |                               |
| <b>21<sup>st</sup></b> |                              |                               |                              |                              |                         |                               |
| <b>Easter 4</b>        |                              | 11.00am Holy Communion        |                              | 9.30am Holy Communion        | 11.00am Morning Worship | 11.00am Holy Communion (1662) |
| <b>28<sup>th</sup></b> |                              |                               |                              |                              |                         |                               |
| <b>Easter 4</b>        | 4.00pm Evening Prayer (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.)

**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)

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

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

Whitchurch Carol Rutter 01789 450795 (landline)

John Craher 01789 450200 (landline)

*Richard Cooke, the Rector, writes*

### **Remembering Tilly and Harry**

One afternoon a couple of weeks after Easter last year I was enjoying a cup of tea in the garden in the Spring sunshine. It was one of those days when the sun first begins to feel genuinely warm. The peace was broken by the sound of helicopters buzzing low over Foxcote Hill. The next day news came through of the terrible crash on the Campden Road and of the deaths of three teenagers, two of whom, Tilly Seccombe and Harry Purcell, came from within our parishes.

Such a waste of young lives leaves us feeling helpless and useless. It was a senseless loss, and it's impossible to find meaning in such tragedy. But perhaps we can find a way to make some meaning *from* it, and recently the two families have joined together in supporting a petition that may, in a practical way, help other families to avoid losing their precious children in such circumstances. Details of the petition are elsewhere in this edition of the Downs and Valley Magazine, but I hope you will consider signing it, as I have done, as a way of remembering Tilly and Harry.

We shall also be remembering Tilly and Harry and their families in the prayers on Sunday 28 April in the services at Preston-on-Stour (11am) and Ilmington, where they are each buried.

### **Michael Dingley**

Michael Dingley died on 3 March at the age of 98. He was churchwarden for many years at Ilmington, where he and Shirley have lived since 1963. One of the last in the villages to have served in the forces during the Second World War, though he was always quick to point out that he never saw action, he had led a full life and contributed immeasurably to the life of the village.

### **Parish Giving Scheme**

Many thanks to those who have already signed up to this scheme, and apologies that the letter with last month's magazine may have given the impression that only St Mary's Ilmington benefits from it. In fact you can donate to all of the local churches except Darlingscott through it, and details are most easily available on the 'Parish Giving Scheme' website, through which you can easily identify your parish church and register.

## **From the Registers**

### **Funerals**

At Ilmington on 7 March, Clive and Wendy Tinson (interment of ashes).  
At Oakley Wood Crematorium on 11 March, Alison Taylor of Tredington, aged 61.

At St Peter's Stretton-on-Fosse on 12 March, Margaret Holdsworth, aged 85.

At St Gregory's Tredington on 15 March, Shirley Cressman, aged 88 (followed by burial in the churchyard).

At St Gregory's Tredington on 20 March, Ian Plank, aged 76.

At St Mary's Ilmington on 22 March, Michael Dingley, aged 98.

At St Mary's Preston-on-Stour on 22 March, Robert Stredder of Blunsdon, Wilts, formerly of Preston, aged 82 (followed by burial in the churchyard).

## **Editor's Note**

The *deadline for copy for the May 2024 issue is Saturday 20 April* 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 Fran Chapman 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*

## **Nature Notes April 2024**

Our most familiar wild violet, the Common dog-violet lives in a range of habitats; woodlands, grassland, hedgerows, pastures etc. Its purple flowers with a white centre appear from April to June. It's heart shaped leaves meant that it was often associated with romance! Its flowers are not scented and the word "dog" in its name refers to a lack of scent and has no association with a dog! Its cousin, the Sweet Violet, was used as a perfume in Ancient Greece! Violets are edible and can be crystallised and used to decorate cakes etc. However, do not eat the flowers of an African Violet a common house plant. There are over 100 species of violets in different colours: blue, purple, and white are the most common. This plant is very important for several types of fritillary butterflies, because they lay their eggs on it. God thought of everything!

*Gill*

## ILMINGTON

### **St Mary's Ilmington: Easter Lilies**

If you would like to contribute to the Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one, please leave donations/name in a sealed envelope at the Community shop or hand to Helen Patrick. Online donations can be made to PCC Ilmington 30-98-26 01704398 email hock-eyhelen59@gmail.com if you would like to have a loved one named in the memorial window.

*Helen Patrick, Churchwarden*

### **Ilmington Community Shop and Café: Time to Connect**

Book Club @thecafe is reading *The Outcast* by Sadie Jones this month – but no one is ever cast out at the Community Café! So don't be a stranger, come along for the discussion, even if you haven't read the book. It's at 2pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month.) Further opportunities to join in are Knit and Natter on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm and a new club: Coffee & Connect @thecafe. IT expert Linda will be guiding us towards seamless streaming, effortless emailing and other topics on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm. All questions welcome – bring your own laptop or other device.

*Ilmington Community Shop and Café Committee*

### **Ilmington Horticultural Society: Spring Events**

Don't forget the annual Spring Flower Show in the Village Hall on Saturday 6 April 2-4pm. Anyone of any age is welcome to enter without charge. Schedules are available from the Community Shop. If you would like to join us for a garden visit to Coton Manor in Northants on Friday afternoon 12 April contact Susan Brock (01608 682409 [s.brock9@btinternet.com](mailto:s.brock9@btinternet.com)) for more information and to book a place.

*Susan Brock, Secretary*

### **Ilmington Screen-on-the-Green: One Life (12)**

Our film on Friday 26 April is *One Life*, which tells the poignant true story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a young London stockbroker who overcame extraordinary odds to rescue hundreds of children, most of them Jewish, on the eve of the Nazi invasion of Czechoslovakia. Fifty years later, in 1988, surprise interest from the TV show *That's Life!* helps Nicky (Anthony Hopkins) come to terms with his grief over those he couldn't bring to safety in England. Helena Bonham-Carter also stars. 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 Parish Council News**

**PLAYGROUND NEWS:** Ilmington Parish Council is pleased to announce the opening of a new basket swing and junior swings in Grace's Playground. A safer surface has been laid around the Supernova, and the plastic tube slide has been repaired. We would like to extend grateful thanks to Ilmington Community Shop for their generous donation for the new basket swing. Stratford District Council also contributed via its CIL Infrastructure Fund. **SPEEDING CONCERNS:** The parish council would like to thank the residents who wrote to the council or attended our February meeting to discuss concerns about speeding in the village. To take this forward, an action group is being created and we plan to meet with Highways to see what options are available to tackle speeding. **COUNCILLOR VACANCY:** Are you passionate about Ilmington? There is still one vacant seat on the parish council. Candidates are reminded that, to be eligible for co-option onto the Parish Council they must satisfy the standard election qualification criteria, and live or work in the parish or within three miles of its boundary. **CONTACT:** For the latest news visit [www.ilmington-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ilmington-pc.gov.uk) or see the noticeboards on Upper or Lower Green. To contact the clerk, email [clerk@ilmington-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@ilmington-pc.gov.uk) or call 01451 885189.

*Pauline Rigby, Clerk to Ilmington Parish Council*

### **Wife-Swopping Society**

There will be no meeting of the Society on the first Monday of this month as it is a Bank Holiday and also the festival of monogamy in the Eastern Church.

*G. Tonchew*

### **Wednesday Club: Next Meeting on April 10th at 2pm, Village Hall**

Our meeting with the community police was well received. There was a lot of useful information given and many questions answered. A big thank you must go to Shipston Community Police who took the time to inform us on the dangers of scamming. On 10th April at 2pm, there will be a member of the Samaritans at our next event who will be giving us an insight into its background and the training needed. Such a needed service in our world today and definitely something worth listening to. Having lost Bob Johnson earlier this year, I am sad to say we have no birthdays in April. Christine Warmington has now joined Edith at Low Furlong and I know that both ladies would love to have visitors.

*Carole Clifford, Chair*



### **Ilmington Village Hall**

**On Sunday evening 14 April we are delighted to present The Northern Assembly**, one of the top folk performances in the country and featuring local boy Jon Doran from Chipping Campden. Tickets available from the Community Shop.

Have fun exercising with fellow villagers at the following wellbeing events:

**Table tennis** on Tuesdays 2-3pm

**Indoor curling** on Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm

**Tai Chi** on Fridays 11:15-12:15 except for the last Friday of the month when it is at 1-2pm

*Bryan Clifford, Chair*

### **PRESTON-ON –STOUR**

#### **May Day - 2.30pm on Monday 6th May**

Please do come along and support our May Day celebrations. Our May Queen is ready and anticipating a good crowd to see her crowned on the village green. The parade starts from the village hall car park at 2.30 and finishes on the green in front of the church. There will be the usual feast of homemade cakes and teas, children's games, tug'o'war, music, dancing and various stalls. This is a traditional event for all ages, so we look forward to seeing you there.

*Margaret Brocklehurst*

#### **Preston Village Hall: Film Night - 7 for 7.30pm** **Friday 26th April**

This month's film will be 'One Life', which is a 2023 biographical drama. It is based on the true story of British humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton as he looks back on his past efforts to help groups of Jewish children in German-occupied Czechoslovakia to hide and flee in 1938-39, just before the beginning of World War II. The film stars Anthony Hopkins and Johnny Flynn as Sir Nicholas, with Lena Olin, Romola Garai, Alex Sharp, Jonathan Pryce, and Helena Bonham Carter in supporting roles. Tickets are £3.50 on the door.

*Margaret Brocklehurst*

### **STRETTON-ON-FOSSE**

#### **Stretton Spring Festival !**

Stretton Greenfingers Gardening Club are organising a special event on 7 April between 3.30 pm and 5.30 pm! There will be tea, coffee and cakes in the village hall and if possible we would like you to bring along vases of spring flowers, spring plants in pots (bulbs or anything cheerful!), photographs or paintings of spring scenes, etc. Items from adults and from children. This isn't a show, so no cups or anything like that - just a celebration of spring! At the Spring

Festival we will be distributing sunflower seeds and seed potatoes for children to grow ready for the summer show which will be taking place on 17th August this year.

*Marianne Robinson, Secretary*

### **Village Hall**

The refurbishing of Stretton Village Hall is nearly complete. We expect the main hall to be available from 2nd April and the meeting room and kitchen by the 8th April. We look forward to welcoming everyone to the hall soon.

*Izzi Hazelwood*

## **TREDINGTON WITH DARLINGS COTT**

### **St George's Church Darlingscott**

We have a number of books in the Schoolroom attached to the Church, if anyone would like to take some please do, any donations will go into church funds. Thank you. Please take as many as you would like.

*Doreen McCarroll. Churchwarden*

### **May Day Village Lunch on Sunday 5 May in the W.I.Hall, Tredington**

We are celebrating the return to warmer weather with a village lunch on Sunday 5th May at 12.30 for 1.00 to be held in the W.I. Hall. Menu to be decided nearer the time and this will be circulated by word of mouth or by asking one of the people listed below. This is open to everyone in the village and will be a two course lunch with coffee and soft drinks. Please bring your own wine or alcoholic drink if you want them. We would love to see you, new residents especially welcome. If you would like to come and/or help please sign your name on the list which will be just inside the church on the left hand table. We ask for donations to cover the cost and any profit from this meal will go to charity. As we are restricted with numbers in the hall, please sign your name as soon as possible. For more details phone Marilyn Payne 666206, Sarah Taylor 662782, or Jenny Plenderleith 664278.

*Jenny Plenderleith*

### **WI Community Film Night**

Our next film, in the WI Hall, CV36 4NP, will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April. This British film (2022) tells the heart-warming story of a cleaner's ambition to own a Dior gown, which takes her on an adventure to Paris. It is certificate PG. 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 films for 2024, contact Gill at [treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk) or text 07789 810877.

*Gill Goodlad, Treasurer*

### **Craft & Chatter/Chatter & Craft**

The next **Craft & Chatter** is in the WI Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April. The next **Chatter & Craft** is in the same venue on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Each meeting starts at 2pm, with a charge of just £1 towards tea or coffee and cake. For details contact Vanessa on 07818 599353 or email [vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk](mailto:vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk)  
*Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary*

### **Tredington & Blackwell WI**

Our next WI meeting in the WI Hall is on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. Our speaker is Stephanie Howells, an interior designer, on the subject of 'Showhomes and the TV programme, Changing Rooms'. 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](mailto:secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk)  
*Gill Goodlad, Secretary*

### **WI Spring Fair**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 10.30 – 12.30 in the WI Hall. A coffee morning with sale of homemade cakes, preserves and crafts. Raffle. Free admission.  
*Gill Goodlad, Secretary*

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

The next meeting is in the WI Hall on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April. We open at 7pm with the bar available, then begin our meeting at 7.30pm. Our speaker is Mandy Bradshaw, gardening journalist, on the subject of the Chelsea Flower Show. 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](http://www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com)  
*Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary*

### **Qigong (Movement, Breathwork & Meditation)**

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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk).  
*Gill Goodlad, Secretary*

## **Whitchurch**

Who was the 'Crimscote Scold'? You can see a plaster cast of her face on the north wall of the church, taken from a stone sculpture found among builder's rubble when a cottage in the parish was demolished donkey's years ago. The original has since disappeared. Was she, as old-timers in Whitchurch said, 'Mad Moll', the eighteenth-century version of today's sour curtain twitcher or hostile neighbour glaring at you over the fence and always ready to tell you off? Or do the deep furrows wrinkling her face reveal something else, not scowls but deep thinking? Is 'scold' just a misogynist term for a woman who speaks her mind? Whoever she was, she continues to fix her gaze on us and make us wonder. Thank you to all who put your muscle into the churchyard work party on March 9. Only a few more bricks to go! Watch this space for two new faculty applications now in progress.

*Carol Rutter, Churchwarden*

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