



The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No. 18 Sept. 2024



*Village History*  
**EXHIBITION**

*In Memory of Donald & Margaret Holdsworth*

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**

**Weekdays 2pm – 6pm • Weekends 11am – 6pm**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> ends at 4pm with a Church Service of Thanksgiving for the Holdsworths

**St Peter's Church, Stretton-on-Fosse, GL56 9SD**

*Donations are to be split between the Church and the History Group*



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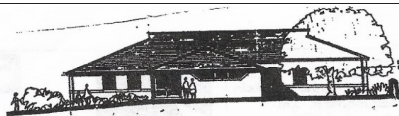
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## Downs and Valley Churches Service Rota September 2024

September 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
1 <sup>st</sup> Trinity 14	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Worship
8 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 15	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion (1662)		11.00am Morning Worship	
15 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 16		11.00am Holy Communion			11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)
22 <sup>nd</sup> Trinity 17	4.00pm Evening Worship (1662)	6.00pm Harvest Festival <i>With Quiz to follow</i>	11.00am Morning Worship	4.00pm Thanksgiving for Donald & Margaret Holdsworth	11.00am Holy Communion	
29 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 18/ Michaelmas		11.00am Morning Worship	Holy Communion (1662) 9.30am		11.00am Harvest Festival <i>With Quiz to follow</i>	

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**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); 01608 544821 (landline) or

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

Hon. Assistant Minister: The Revd Dr Tim Seller

Reader: Ros Wakefield

Reader Emeritus: Malcolm Davies

**Churchwards:**

Tredington *Posts vacant - contact the Rector*

Darlingscott Doreen McCarroll

Ilmington Jane Downie

Preston-on-Stour Andrew Holman-West

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

Whitchurch Carol Rutter

John Craner 01789 450795 (landline)

Helen Patrick 01608 682949 (landline)

01608 682244 (landline)

01608 682146 (landline)

01789 450793 (landline)

07712 193773 (mobile)

01789 450795 (landline)

01789 450200 (landline)

*Richard Cooke, the Rector, writes:*

## **An Olympic and Paralympic Summer**

In late July and early August we had the Olympics, and as this magazine comes out the Paralympics are starting. Both are extraordinary celebrations of athletic skill, determination and bravery, producing memorable moments of triumph and occasional, heart-tugging, disasters. Laura Collett, who won Equestrian team Gold and individual Bronze medals, and rides despite a horrendous accident in 2013, and Rose Harvey, who completed the marathon (she came 78<sup>th</sup>) despite having a broken leg have local connections: Laura was a pupil at Ilmington School, and Rose lives nearby in Evesham.

I found it striking that a good many athletes chose to speak about their religious faith. Most noticeable was Adam Peaty, who narrowly missed a third consecutive swimming Gold medal. In his interview immediately afterwards he said 'I couldn't have done more' and seemed at peace with this. You couldn't imagine him saying that before, when his 'red mist' was a famous part of his sporting persona. But after a couple of years of personal turmoil he is open about the fact that finding a Christian faith has made an enormous difference to how he approaches life. Andrea Spendolini-Siriex, who won a diving Bronze with Lois Toulson, reflected later on how tough things have been for her since the last Olympics in 2021 (she's still only 19) and how she had found help and support in her faith: 'I give glory to God' she had said as she came out of the pool. And the extraordinary photo of the surfer Gabriel Medina hovering in midair with his board beside him in Tahiti as he won Gold shows him pointing to the sky. The reason for the pose came out in the quote he added to his post of the photo: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' he wrote. There were many others, too.

Possessing a supreme talent as these athletes do must be an extraordinary thing. Coming to terms with it must also be hard, and perhaps recognising that it is primarily a gift, even if it needs careful honing through hours and years of dedicated training, is important too. Reaching back a century to the last Paris Olympics in 1924, we may be reminded of Eric Liddell, hero of the film *Chariots of Fire*, who won an unexpected Gold medal in the 400 metres despite hardly having run the distance before. Liddell never ran in another Olympics but returned to China, where he had been born to missionary parents, to carry on their work. His last years were spent in an internment camp and would make another fascinating film. Eric Liddell died in the camp in China in February 1945, aged only 43. His Christian faith led him to put service before glory and made a powerful difference to all those who knew him. There's a lovely scene in *Chariots of Fire* where Liddell is asked why he runs when God has so many other things that need to be done in the world. He simply replies, 'But when I run, I feel His pleasure.' That phrase perhaps sums up the appeal of the Olympics, the Paralympics, and other sports. Here we see humans fully alive, using the gifts they have been given. Perhaps it's no wonder that, in the midst of it, so many want to thank God for that.

### **Harvest Festivals**

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept Ilmington, 6.00pm (with quiz to follow)  
29<sup>th</sup> Sept Tredington, 11.00am (with quiz to follow)  
Darlingscott, 4.00pm  
6<sup>th</sup> Oct Stretton, 4.00pm  
Preston, 6.00pm  
13<sup>th</sup> Oct Whitchurch, 4.00pm

### **From the Registers**

**Wedding:** at Ilmington, 31 August, Thomas Walne-Hampson and Jessica Longbottom.

**Funeral:** at Tredington, 12 August, Christopher Blythe aged 83.

*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 October 2024 issue is **Saturday 14 September**. Send 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 from Nigel Dunn of Ilmington: showing The Flowers of Ilmington Women's Morris. 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 September 2024**

This month as we enter September we experience a change of season to Autumn.

The harvest Moon can be seen around the Autumn Equinox which this year occurs on 22nd September. The angle of the Moon's orbit to the Earth's horizon is at its minimum at this time. This causes the full Moon or Super Moon to rise above the horizon much faster than usual and it appears bigger and brighter. It seems to occur for a few nights at this time. It was called the harvest moon because the harvest workers were aided by the bright moonlight after sunset to continue to harvest the crops. In Psalm 8 the writer marvels that when he looks to the sky  
rops. In Psalm 8 the writer marvels that when he looks to the sky and

and sees the moon and the stars which God set in their places how God's greatness is truly seen in all the Earth.

*Gill*

## **ILMINGTON**

### **Birthday Thanks**

It takes a particularly kind and generous group of people to turn out at 10am on a Monday morning to make such a successful and enjoyable birthday party. Thanks folks.

*Gerv*

### **Last of the Summer Wine: Ilmington Community Shop & Cafe**

The main event this month is our Late Summer BBQ on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Please come along to Upper Green from 12 noon for a chance to meet friends and celebrate community life. There'll be sizzling sausages, brilliant burgers, beer, wine and homemade cake! No need to book in advance. We are also looking forward to another long-table supper in October: save Friday 4<sup>th</sup> for a three-course evening meal with drinks for only £20 – get your tickets from the Community Shop.

Other dates for the diary... Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 2pm, Book Club @thecafe reading "Yesterday's Harvest" by Brian Carter; Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm Knit and Natter; Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October next Book Club. All are welcome.

*Ilmington Community Shop Committee*

### **Ilmington Village Hall**

#### **Have fun whilst getting healthy exercise**

**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*

### **Ilmington Screen-on-the-Green: The Miracle Club (12A)**

We return from our summer break with a screening on **Friday 27 September** of The Miracle Club, a touching comedy-drama starring Maggie Smith, Laura Linney and Kathy Bates. Set in 1967, this heart-warming tale follows three generations of friends as they take a road trip from Ireland to Lourdes, each in search of their own healing. 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*

### **Wednesday Club Next Meeting; 11th September at 2 pm, Village Hall**

Martin Taylor was, once again, a very hospitable host when the Wednesday Club visited the Manor for the Garden Party. Our grateful

thanks go to Martin for welcoming us into his lovely home.  
his lovely home.

September is a busy month for birthdays. Janet Allinson has a birthday on 23rd, Marilyn Figgitt on 24th, Colin Waterman on 27th, Mary Brain on 28th and Carol Hawkins on 29th. Happy birthday everyone! We are trying out a new idea that is open to all villagers. Remember the Treasure Hunts of the past? Well, for the next Wednesday Club meeting we are organising a Treasure Hunt or Trail for Shipston on Stour. This has been designed for any age and number of people / families. It costs £10 per quiz pamphlet to join in and covers the centre of Shipston, especially its history. Starting time is 1pm. It will roughly take one and a half hours to complete and you will need just one pamphlet per group. Everyone is welcome! If you would like to take part on 11th September, you are welcome to come and have tea and cake at the village hall afterwards as a reward! The village hall will be open from 2 to 4 pm that day. as Wednesday Club members can meet as normal if they do not wish to take part in the Treasure Trail. I will be there from 1pm onwards to give out the Treasure Trails pamphlets so please do let me know as soon as possible if you are interested 01608 682996.

*Carole 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.

*Margaret Brocklehurst*

### **Harvest Supper - Saturday 12th October 7pm**

This is a popular annual village meal held at the village hall. There will be a platter of 3 meats, a vegetarian option with salads and baked potatoes followed by homemade apple crumble or trifle all for £12 and £5 for under tens. There is no bar, so bring your own glasses and liquid refreshments. We need advance bookings to allow for ordering food and setting up seating. Please come and join us for a good meal and chinwag.

Contact Margaret Brocklehurst or any of the committee by Thursday 10th October latest.

*Margaret Brocklehurst*

### **Preston Film Night**

Please note that there will be a holiday break for August and September. The next date for your calendar will be Friday 25th October.

*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 from 10.30 - 1.00 and then again from 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](mailto:e.prestonbrocks@gmail.com).

*Margaret Brocklehurst*

## **STRETTON ON FOSSE**

### **Stretton Village Hall Trustee Committee Needs New Members**

The Village Hall Trustees are a small group of volunteers who oversee the governance of the Village Hall and help the Village Hall Committee with their day to day running of the Hall. This is not an odious role at all and is a great way to 'put something back' into your local community. We meet 4 times a year, usually in one of the Trustees' houses with refreshments! Currently there are 5 members of the Trustee committee with one of these members due to leave as they have completed their 5-year stint. If you feel this may be something you would be interested in (and you are over 18 years old), then please email the Hall in the first instance for further information: [strettonvillagehall@strettononfosse.com](mailto:strettonvillagehall@strettononfosse.com). Alternatively, you can call the chairman of the committee, Simon Bayliss on 07790 414292 or 01608 662712. We look forward to hearing from you!

*Louise Dews*

### **Stretton Village History Exhibition**

There will be an exhibition in memory of Donald & Margaret Holdsworth from Saturday 14th to Sunday 22nd September in St Peter's Church, weekdays 2 -6pm, weekends 11am - 6pm, closing with a church service of thanksgiving for the Holdsworths at 4pm on Sunday 22nd. Wheelchair access through Court House drive.

*Geoff Dalton*

### **Tales and Tunes from a Life in Gardening**

#### **7.30 pm Thursday 3rd October at Stretton Village Hall!**

Come along and hear about the experiences of Keith Finlay and Mike Beestow, two gardeners from different backgrounds, as they talk their way through their gardening years. You'll be guaranteed a laugh and will be entertained not only with amusing stories but with fabulous music. Their love of traditional music brought them together and they now play in a band known as Brimstone. A few of their favourite tunes will be woven into these stories to compliment the evening's entertainment. What more could you wish for? It'll be a

a great evening out. Stretton Garden Club Members and Ilmington Horticultural Society Members £5.00. Non members very welcome - 7.50. Refreshments available and there will be a raffle too. [Email mariannerobinson@btinternet.com](mailto:mariannerobinson@btinternet.com) or phone Marianne on 07929 629745 if you need further details .

## **TREDINGTON WITH DARLINGSCOTT**

### **Harvest Festival Sunday 29 September in St Gregory's Church**

We are having our Harvest Festival in Church at 11.00 followed by a lunch in the church and a Harvest Quiz. The menu to be finalised shortly. A list will be in the church at the beginning of September with full details. Bring your own alcoholic drinks, soft drinks and celebrate the gathering in of the harvest. There is no set charge but we ask people for donations and all profits will be given to charity. We will be asking for help nearer the time, so volunteers welcome. For further details contact Sarah Taylor tel. 662782 , Marilyn Payne tel.666206, Jenny Plenderleith tel.664278.

*Jenny Plenderleith*

### **Tredington & Blackwell WI**

Our next WI meeting will be held in the WI Hall at 7pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. This will be a practical crafts and social evening, led by two of our members. Enjoy a glass of wine and try a choice of new crafts in preparation for Christmas gifts and decorations. All women are welcome (Guests £5). For more information, please contact Gill by text to 07789 810877, or email [secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk](mailto:secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk).

*Gill Goodlad, WI Secretary*

### **Craft & Chatter**

Craft & Chatter will meet at 2pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> & Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 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](mailto:vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk)

*Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary*

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

Our Autumn meetings begin on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the WI Hall. Our speaker will be Ingrid Millington of Hillview Hardy Plants, talking about bulbs, tubers and corms for year-round colour in the garden. Bar open 7-7.30pm, bring & share table and light refreshments. Non-members are welcome (£5pp) For more information see [www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com](http://www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com)

*Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary*

### **Community Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper**

The next quiz will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September in the WI Hall.

Doors open at 6pm, with bar available. Raffle. Fish and chips are served at 6.30pm, followed by the quiz, which includes a short break halfway through. Quizzers are in teams of four, so come as a Admission is by advance booking only. **Booking is now open**, contact Gill by text to 07789 810877 or email [treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk) to book your place(s) and make payment of £12.50 pp.  
*Gill Goodlad, WI Treasurer*

### **NEW: Early Morning Qigong at the WI Hall**

Tuesday mornings 8.00 – 8.45am in the WI Hall. Start your day with balance and energy by joining our new 45-minute Qigong class –perfect for those heading to work. This class is designed to suit all levels of experience, from beginners to seasoned practitioners, and is accessible to everyone, standing or seated. Qigong is an ancient practice that harmonises body and mind, leaving you refreshed, focused, and ready to tackle your day with a calm, centred energy. Don't miss this opportunity to rejuvenate your mornings and set a positive tone for the rest of your day! £7pp, either on the door (cash or card) or from <https://breath-therapy.uk/events> Classes taught by Alissa Powell of Breath Therapy – [alissa@breath-therapy.uk](mailto:alissa@breath-therapy.uk)

*Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary*

### **Community Film Night**

Our next film is on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 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 and their legacy, 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](mailto:gillgoodlad@hotmail.com)

*Gill Goodlad, WI Treasurer*

## **OUTSIDE THE PARISHES**

### **SAVE THE DATE – A BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN** **at the HALFORD BRIDGE INN, HALFORD** **On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2024**

Please make sure the date is in your diary, and come for a delicious continental breakfast. Everyone is very welcome, and this relaxed, friendly morning is open to everyone. Our Autumn speaker is THE REVEREND CANON MARY GREGORY who is the Canon for Arts and Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral. Mary will be a very interesting lady to listen to, having been a Prison Officer and a Prison Governor. Her work as a member of a high-profile enquiry in Northern Ireland was foundational in developing her interest in reconciliation. 'She has a particular passion for the rich potential of words, and for the role of beauty and the imagination in drawing us deeper into our encounters with God.'

*For more info please contact Liz Harvey: [ma\\_harvey@hotmail.com](mailto:ma_harvey@hotmail.com)*

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*Tredington & Blackwell WI Hall,  
 Armscote Rd, Tredington CV36 4NP*

## On an apple-ripe September morning

On an apple-ripe September morning  
Through the mist-chill fields I went  
With a pitch-fork on my shoulder  
Less for use than for devilment.

The threshing mill was set-up, I knew,  
In Cassidy's haggard last night,  
And we owed them a day at the threshing  
Since last year. O it was delight

To be paying bills of laughter  
And chaffy gossip in kind  
With work thrown in to ballast  
The fantasy-soaring mind.

As I crossed the wooden bridge I wondered  
As I looked into the drain  
If ever a summer morning should find me  
Shovelling up eels again.

And I thought of the wasps' nest in the bank  
And how I got chased one day  
Leaving the drag and the scraw-knife behind,  
How I covered my face with hay.

The wet leaves of the cocksfoot  
Polished my boots as I  
Went round by the glistening bog-holes  
Lost in unthinking joy.

I'll be carrying bags to-day, I mused,  
The best job at the mill  
With plenty of time to talk of our loves  
As we wait for the bags to fill.

Maybe Mary might call round...  
And then I came to the haggard gate,  
And I knew as I entered that I had come  
Through fields that were part of no earthly estate.

Patrick Kavanagh 1904 - 1967





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