



The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No. 20 Nov. 2024



An evening of Parisian-flavoured jazz and Gypsy Swing

Swing from Paris are a quartet of violin, guitars and double bass, inspired by the great swing bands of the 1930s and '40s.

Benny Goodman and Charlie Christian meets Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli and the Hot Club of France.

Expect stylish jazz and vintage swing.

Swing from Paris at
Preston on Stour Village Hall
Saturday 23 November 2024
 7.30pm – 9.30pm (inc. 20min interval).
 Doors and bar open from 7pm.
Tickets from £14 in advance
 at swingfromparis.co.uk



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A CHRISTMAS CAROL



BY
CHARLES DICKENS

ST. MARY'S ILMINGTON



TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER

❖ 7PM ❖

WARM UP FOR CHRISTMAS BY COMING TO A DRAMATISED READING OF THIS CHRISTMAS FAVOURITE. A CAST OF ILMINGTON RESIDENTS WILL BRING TO LIFE THE REDUCED SCRIPT PREPARED BY DICKENS FOR HIS MANY PUBLIC READINGS. JOIN US FOR A WELCOME DRINK OF MULLED WINE WITH A MINCE PIE BEFORE THE SHOW. TICKETS ARE £10 FOR ADULTS AND FREE FOR THOSE UNDER SIXTEEN AND ARE AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY SHOP

THE EVENT IS A FUND-RAISER FOR ST MARY'S CHURCH, ILMINGTON.

Downs and Valley Parishes Service Rota

November 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
3rd All Saints		11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	No service
10th Remembrance	10.45am Remembrance	10.45am Remembrance	10.45am Remembrance	10.45am Remembrance	10.45am Remembrance	10.45am Remembrance
17th Second Sunday before Advent		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)
24th Christ the King	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.)

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)

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

Helen Patrick

01789 450795 (landline)

John Craner 01789 450200 (landline)

Richard Cooke writes:

Remembrance – Silence and Oranges

November comes wreathed in mist and fog, and our thoughts turn to Remembrance. I find that the most moving part of our Remembrance rituals is always the two-minutes' of silence that we observe. It was proposed for the first anniversary of the Armistice that ended hostilities in the First World War and has been observed ever since 1919.

In the rush of contemporary life, the silence can suddenly still us and ask us what all our hurry is really for? I came across the story recently of Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese Buddhist monk who is sometimes called the 'Father of Mindfulness'. One day he was sitting under a tree with an American friend called James Douglas, having shared some lunch, when he said 'James, I must teach you how to eat an orange.' 'But I have just eaten one' he replied, rather puzzled. 'I'm not sure you did eat it' came the response: 'I noticed that after you peeled the orange you put one segment into your mouth and took another one straight away before swallowing the first. Then as soon as you put that one in your mouth you seized the third segment, and all the time you were thinking about the next thing. So because you were in such a hurry I'm not sure you really ate any of it.'

In the two-minutes' silence we pause and remember, But we also do much more. For those brief 120 seconds we also hear the wind and feel it on our faces, catch the bird-calls and perhaps hear the bleat of a sheep or the bark of a dog that the usual human noise generally drowns out.

That moment, briefly becalmed as the tide of time flows around us, is really I think what we mean by prayer: being conscious of our own smallness and yet, perhaps, comforted by it too. This has always been at the heart of the Christian practice of contemplative prayer. Though there are other forms of prayer too, this one is maybe where we start. There, at that still moment, perhaps you sometimes feel, like me, the presence of God. And then we move on. But the challenge is to retain that stillness somehow as the days and weeks go on and the world winds up to Christmas. Maybe learning to eat an orange might be a good way to start!

Licensing

When Rectors arrive in a group of parishes, they are *instituted*, *inducted* and *installed* – which makes us sound a bit like radiators or electrical equipment! That happened to me in late February 2022, but it was as an Interim Minister with a licence limited to three years. I'm pleased to say that Bishop Ruth, who's the acting Bishop of Coventry, came to a service at Preston-on-Stour on 20th October and extended the licence, which means that I can stay in the parishes beyond next February without a formal time limit. Barbara and I are very grateful to all those who work so hard to keep our 6 churches running and who came to give their support on 20th October and who provided refreshments after the service. It is a privilege to remain here as Rector!

Remembrance Services

All our churches will have Remembrance Services on 10th November, starting at 10.45am.

From the Registers

Funerals

At St Peter's, Stretton-on-Fosse on 2 October, Giles Samuel ('Ge') Holdsworth, aged 51 (followed by cremation at Oakley Wood).

At St Mary's, Ilmington on 21 October, Jeffrey Warren Gartside, aged 87 (preceded by cremation at Oakley Wood)

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 December 2024 issue is **Saturday 16 November**. 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 of the 2023 Poppy display at St Gregory's Tredington is from Peter Wright of Tredington. 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

Link to Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Would you like to send a Christmas shoebox as a very special gift to a family or elderly person in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania or Bulgaria? For those living in poverty or under the threat of war, it will be a lifeline –and for many the only Christmas present they'll receive; so thank you in advance for your generosity. Link to Hope guarantee to deliver the boxes - full of fun and useful gifts -in time for Christmas Day.

Just pick up a leaflet from one of our churches- **Ilmington, Darlingscott, Stretton, Tredington, Whitchurch or Preston – or from Ilmington Community Shop and café** — and follow the instructions **Then deliver your box to:**

- Gill Hanrahan -The Old Vicarage, Preston on Stour (call 07703 409298 to arrange drop off)
- Denise Belchambers- Spring Cottage, Tredington 01608 663696
- Wendy Lewis Edwards, Croake Cottage, Frog Lane, Ilmington on 01608 682049. (Do call if you need me to collect from you.)

The deadline is **FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER**. For other ways to join in please visit www.linktohope.co.uk
Wendy Lewis Edwards, Appeal Coordinator

Nature Notes November 2024

In November birds have difficulty finding natural food, they need our help. Bird feeders or a bird table are both helpful. Bird seed, dried meal worms, bird peanuts and fat balls are all enjoyed. We need to keep bird feeders/bird tables and water sources clean to prevent disease, spread by contaminated food and drinking water. Using rubber gloves, remove and bin old food, wash both bird feeders (dismantle them first), and tables with warm soapy water, rinse and dry off. Animal friendly disinfectants are available but rinse and dry after use before refilling. Regular cleaning will help to keep our birds disease-free. In the story of creation Genesis C1 it tells us that God created all kinds of birds on the fifth day to fly across the sky and to multiply and He blessed them. May you be blessed as you care for them.

Gill

Christmas Greetings via the Parishes Magazine

Increasingly many people donate to charities instead of sending Christmas cards. Why not send your greetings via the December issue of the magazine which goes to every home in Blackwell, Compton Scorpion, Crimscote, Darlingscott, Ilmington, Preston on Stour, Stretton on Fosse, Tredington, Wimpstone and Whitchurch? Its **FREE** but you might be moved to give a donation to the Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine via BACS (6 Parishes Magazine; sort code: 30-98-97; account number: 55673763). As a guide, our classified ads cost £6 for 30 words. Please send your name, your message and, if you like, the name of the charity you are supporting to s.brock9@btinternet.com by 16 November the deadline for the December issue of the magazine.

Susan Brock, Editor

ILMINGTON

Keeping Public Rights of Way Clear

Ilmington is blessed with having many public footpaths and bridleways within the parish which provide important access and recreational opportunities within the village and the surrounding countryside. In general they are well maintained but occasionally they become overgrown or obstructed. It is important that pathways are kept clear to provide safe and easy passage. Many of the pathways cross or are adjacent to privately owned land. The parish council therefore kindly remind landowners of their responsibilities as follows:

1. Where a public footpath or bridleway crosses private land or is adjacent to private land, the landowners have a responsibility to ensure that there is a clear passageway. This means that hedges, bushes, trees, brambles, crops and other obstructions that inconvenience the passage of walkers, cyclists and horse riders,

should be cut back and/or removed by the landowners.

2. Landowners also have a responsibility for maintaining stiles and gateways along public paths and bridleways and help with materials for this may be available from Warwickshire County Council.

We have been fortunate in receiving help to maintain public rights of way over many years from the volunteers of the Cotswold Wardens who have kindly cleared pathways, repaired stiles, and installed kissing gates. Two of our most active local wardens have recently retired, and so we appeal to landowners to make sure they are aware of and fulfilling their legal obligation to keep pathways clear. The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens have limited resources covering the wider Cotswold National Landscape. They can be still called upon to help, but preferably only in circumstances where landowners find it impossible or very difficult to fulfil their obligations.

Further information: Problems about Warwickshire Public Rights of Way can be reported online at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rowreporting, and queries directed to the PROW team by email paths@warwickshire.gov.uk or telephone 01926 413427. Interested in joining the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens?

Visit www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/looking-after/volunteering/

Pauline Rigby, Clerk to Ilmington Parish Council. Article written with help from local Voluntary Wardens.

Reminder: Ilmington Show Community Funds

The deadline for submission of applications for funds is Wednesday 6 November. Any group or organisation wishing to make a bid for support for an activity or project that benefits the parish and community of Ilmington can pick up an application form from Ilmington Community Shop or request one from the Committee Secretary at 01608 682409 or E: S.brock9@btinternet.com. The form asks for the name of the applicant and the organisation, contact details, the intended use of the grant, the beneficiaries, the amount of money requested and the timescale of the project. Email your completed form to the Committee Secretary at s.brock9@btinternet.com or send to Daisy Cottage, Front. St., Ilmington CV36 4LA.

Susan Brock, Show Committee Secretary

St Mary's Church

Calling all carol singers! St Mary's is putting together a choir to sing carols at the Howard Arms on the evening of Monday 23 December. If you'd like to join us, please contact Helen at hockeyhelen59@gmail.com or on 07903 186 722 for more details. Thank you!

Jane Downie, Churchwarden

Ilmington Screen-on-the-Green: The Holdovers (15)

On Friday 29th November we are showing The Holdovers, a suitably festive-themed offering for our last film night of the year. In this

1970s-set comedy drama, a curmudgeonly New England teacher (Paul Giamatti) is left in charge of a ragtag group of pupils stuck at boarding school for the Christmas holidays. Da'Vine Joy Randolph's performance as the school's cook won her best supporting actress at this year's Oscar ceremony. 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 Community Shop and Cafe

November is a great month in the Community Shop: shelves are groaning with seasonal goodies and we're getting excited for Christmas! You will be able to avoid the supermarket queues and order all the elements of a Christmas meal from us. Order forms are in the shop. Dates for your diary: 5th November at 2pm, Book Club @thecafe is reading *Precious Matter* by Belinda Roberts (next meeting is 3rd December.). NEW: Tea & Tech with Liz 12.30pm to 2.30pm on Tuesday 12th in the Café – bring your own tech. Thursday 21st is our annual Christmas Market at Ilmington Village Hall from 6-8pm – a wonderful array of stalls from local suppliers and artisans. (Call 01608 682838 to book a hot two-course supper.) Saturday 23rd November is Ilmington Shop Local Day. And on Saturday 30th November we hold our Lights in the Dark event, with Christmas tree lights, carols and mulled wine on the Café Terrace. Magical.

Ilmington Community Shop Committee

Wednesday Club Next Meeting; 13th November at 2pm

Kurling proved to be a popular theme at our last meeting with everyone participating in a game and having a good time. The tea and cakes might have helped too!

Our next meeting will be on 13th November when we are lucky enough to have a chance at '**sound bathing**'. Carole Love invites you to wash away your worries and relax with sound meditation. Come along and try it! Everyone is welcome. Sitting or lying (bring a pillow if you do), it is another experience to explore.

We have two birthdays in November. Sheila Ovens from Tredington has a special birthday on 4th November and Thelma Rondel on 15th. Hope you both have a lovely day ladies.

There is a great opportunity to see **Jack and the Beanstalk** pantomime at the Chipping Norton theatre. All we ask is for £5 donation to the theatre. The date is 22nd November and we will be leaving at 10 am. Unbelievably, it is time to talk about Christmas. We have our **Christmas lunch on 4th** December with the 'great' Bev Webb cooking. If you haven't signed up for either, then please let Carole know.

I have to end on a sad note. Betty Bryan passed away on 10th October in Warwick Hospital. It would have been her 95th birthday on 18th. Betty was our very own child evacuee from Coventry in the war and who loved Ilmington so much, she never left. She will be missed. Since we last wrote, David Goldsmith has died too and we send our sympathies to Margaret. On a better note, Irene Sabin is

faring a lot better in the rehab hospital in Leamington Spa. Keep smiling!

Carole Clifford, Chairperson

Ilmington Village Hall

Yoga classes - for beginners through to experienced Yogis - are now available at the Village Hall on Tuesday evenings starting at 6:00pm.

Kurling - for all anyone looking for some fun but gentle exercise on Thursday afternoon 2:30-3:30.

Table Tennis - for all levels of ability from beginners to those who wish to play in the Stratford league on alternate Tuesdays 2:00-3:00pm and Thursday evenings 6:00-8:00pm.

Tai Chi - to start off the week on Monday mornings 09:30-10:30.

Christmas Concert - Immanuel's Ground. Saturday 14 December A costumed group of singers and instrumentalists who perform music of the 18th and 19th centuries, reviving the psalmody and hymnody of the rural parish church from around 200 years ago. The Quire's repertoire also includes secular music from the Georgian period, and psalmody from the American tradition in the same era, taking to heart the instruction of John Wesley to "sing lustily and with good courage". Tickets available from the shop at £12.50.

Sound Bathing - Wednesday 13 November at 7:00pm. If you find it hard to unwind and relax and perhaps find meditation difficult, then a sound meditation may be just the thing you need. The gongs are a wonderful ancient tool used in sound baths to help us restore inner harmony.

Bryan Clifford, Chair

PRESTON ON STOUR

Village Hall

Many thanks to all who helped and attended our Harvest Supper last month. It was a very successful evening and raised just over £300 to help keep our lovely hall in good running order.

'Swing from Paris' - 7pm Saturday 23rd November

Preston is delighted to be hosting this talented UK quartet for an evening of Parisian-flavoured jazz and gypsy swing. There will be a licensed bar. If you have seen this band before you will know that they are worth seeing again and if you haven't please don't miss out. Tickets £14 in advance from swingfromparis.co.uk

Preston Film Night - Friday 29th November

This month we will be lightening the mood with 'Potiche', a comedy starring Catherine Deneuve and Gerard Depardieu. The strict owner of a factory suffers a stroke when his workforce strike for higher wages. His wife, the Potiche or 'trophy wife', decides that she will take over and makes a really good job of it. The doors will be open

and refreshments served from 7pm as usual. Please note that we will not be showing a film in December.

Margaret Brocklehurst

STRETTON ON FOSSE

Stretton Gardening Club: Festive Fun Workshop!

Saturday 7th December 2.30 - 4.30. Stretton Village Hall.

Make a Grapevine Wreath (provided) *or* Table Arrangement (oasis/tray provided). **Also provided** - wire and some foliage, but enhance with your own and any other items you wish to use. A list of ideas will be distributed before the workshop. Cost: Only £15.00 for Garden Club Members; £20.00 for non-members. Festive refreshments will be available! Con-

contact Mariannerobinson@btinternet.com. Or 07929 629745.

Marianne Robinson

Stretton Soup Lunches

Dates for the soup lunches at the village hall until Christmas will be: Nov 13th and 27th, Dec 11th. We will provide a choice of 3 soups, at least one of which will be vegetarian and all ingredients listed in case you have food allergies.

Geri Hunting

TREDINGTON WITH DARLINGSCOTT

Sunday 1st December Village Christmas Lunch in the W.I. Hall at 12.30 for 1.00

Christmas is coming and we are arranging our Village Christmas Lunch. We welcome people from the village to come and join us and enjoy a good meal and even better company. The meal, yet to be finalised, will be a hot roast with lots of vegetables cooked by Bev Webb and this will be followed by puddings and cheese and biscuits. Bring your own alcohol, - soft drinks and glasses provided. Again all profits will go to a local charity. Please write your name on the list just inside the church which will be available from November onwards and this will have the menu and more details. Enquiries Marilyn Payne 666206, Sarah Taylor 662782, Jenny Plenderleith 664278.

Jenny Plenderleith

Tredington Art Club Exhibition: Saturday 9th November

Open at 10.30 am to 3.30 pm in Tredington WI Hall. Free admission and complimentary tea and biscuits. Pop in and see us.

Terri Smith

Craft and Chatter

Craft & Chatter will meet at 2pm on Thursday 7th and Monday 18th November. This is a social event, with plenty of conversation, tea & cake, whilst craft is optional. £1 per person, no membership required. For more information contact Vanessa on 07818 599353 or email vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.com

Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Craft and Chatter

Craft & Chatter will meet at 2pm on Thursday 5th and Monday 16th December. This is a social event, with plenty of conversation, tea & cake, whilst craft is optional. £1 per person, no membership required. For more information contact Vanessa on 07818 599353 or email vanessa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.com

Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Tredington & Blackwell WI

Members will meet for Christmas lunch in December. The next WI meeting is on Thursday 9th January, starting at 1pm with lunch.

Gill Goodlad, WI Treasurer

Tredington & District Garden Club

There is no meeting in December. Members will meet for a New Year Lunch in January.

Gill Goodlad, Member

Community Film Night

The next film will be shown on Friday 13th December in the WI Hall. Doors open at 7pm, with bar available, and the film begins at 7.30pm. Based upon a true story, it tells how an unexpected diversification saves a family shoe-making business. Critics said "it will delight fans of both comedy and shoes!" Certificate 12, running time is 1hr 36mins, plus a short interval for bar and ice creams. Free admission. To book places, or find out more, contact Gill via text to 07789810877 or email gillgoodlad@hotmail.com.

Gill Goodlad, WI Treasurer

WHITCHURCH

A Tribute to Robert Howe

If you've been interested to read 'notes from a small church in a field' over the past months, you should know that these mini-histories that describe some of the curiosities of St Mary's derive entirely from the researches of our parishioner, Robert Howe. For a couple of decades now Robert has been working in archives, libraries, and record offices with documents, press cuttings, land registers and earlier accounts by Nikolaus Pevsner and Rev. Harvey Bloom to write an up-dated (and corrected) history of St Mary's. It's down to Robert that we know about our bell, the lamb sculpture over our door, the coffin road, the patrons whose shields appear in our stained glass, the substitution of St Mathias in the east window, the look of the churchyard in 1900. Robert keeps turning up new material: more 'notes' are coming in the new year. In the meantime, THANK YOU, ROBERT. Your history needs publication.
Whitchurch PCC

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

Stour Singers Christmas Concert

The concert will take place at St Edmund's Church, Shipston, on Saturday 14th December at 7.30pm. We will be performing Vivaldi's Beatus Vir and Magnificat, plus excerpts from Handel's Messiah and carols for all. With soloists Caroline Taylor (soprano), Cathy Bell (alto) and Matthew Pochin (tenor) and orchestra from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Tickets £16 from ticketsource.co.uk/stour-singers or on the door.

Gayle Burch, Coordinator, Stour Singers

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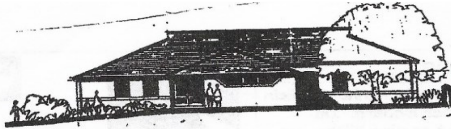
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