



The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No. 19 Oct. 2024

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For more information: strettonvillagehall@strettononfosse.com or contact Izzi on 07850 314161.

DOWNS AND VALLEY CHURCHES SERVICE ROTA OCTOBER 2024

October 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
6th Trinity 19		11.00am Holy Communion <i>(1662)</i>	6.00pm Harvest Festival	4.00pm Harvest Festival	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship
13th Trinity 20	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion <i>(1662)</i>		11.00am Holy Communion	4.00pm Harvest Festival
20th Trinity 21			11.00am Joint service with Bishop Ruth <i>No Service</i>	9.30am Holy Communion		
27th Trinity 22	4.00pm Evening Worship <i>(1662)</i>	6.00pm Evensong <i>(1662)</i>			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)

Tim Seller, Hon. Assistant Minister, writes:

Autumn Leaves

We are all very fortunate to live in a beautiful part of Central England. Every season has its own characteristics and attractions. However Autumn brings with it a tiresome problem for every gardener. Leaves. Leaves enhance our surroundings throughout the Summer while they are attached to the branches of the trees and bushes. Then in early Autumn, their colour changes to vivid golds, yellows and browns. Unfortunately, soon after they become a serious nuisance when they fall to the ground. Leaves carpet our lawns and flower beds and their collection and disposal require the less appealing jobs gardeners have to confront. While sweeping up all those leaves, we are unlikely to acknowledge the amazing role they play in God's creation. Everyone who has studied biology knows about photosynthesis, the process by which leaves turn water and carbon dioxide into simple sugars and oxygen using the energy of the sun. Without leaves animal life would not be possible. However it is all too easy to take for granted this fundamental part of our world. God created the world and He entrusted us to care for it and nurture everything on it. It is very clear that in recent years we have not taking our responsibilities seriously enough. Concern about the environment and global warming is growing and thankfully action to combat the worst consequences have begun. These changes to our environment affect us all and we can see examples of them for ourselves in our gardens. For example, in recent years there have been many fewer insects, particularly bees and butterflies, in our gardens than we were used to seeing in the past.

Thankfully there are places that show us what the world would be like if it were looked after properly. In the Galapagos Islands the environment, especially the plants and animals, are given priority. All visitors to the Islands must be escorted by qualified guides. On many of the Islands human beings are allowed in only as temporary visitors; they are not the dominant residents. As a result the wildlife can be seen in great abundance and variety. The animals are very tame and so it is a wonderful place to visit. Famously the Islands were visited by Charles Darwin in 1835. What he saw was God's creation without the interference of human being. The variety of animal life and the ways it differs between the Islands made major contributions of the development of Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection. The theory explains how the animals and plants have evolved into the forms we see today. So the Galapagos Islands show visitors the way God's creation works in our world. I was lucky enough to visit the Galapagos Islands in 2022. It was an amazing experience. I would like to share with you something of my experience there in an illustrated talk on October 10th at 7.30pm in Ilmington Village Hall in aid of Ilmington Church.

Harvest Festivals

6th Oct Stretton, 4.00pm
 Preston, 6.00pm
13th Oct Whitchurch, 4.00pm

From the Registers

Funerals at Ilmington:

5 Sept, Michael Anthony Saville of Bishampton, aged 78, followed by burial in Churchyard

24 Sept, Anthony George (Tony) Wilkins of Ilmington, aged 92, followed by burial at Cathole

Visit from Bishop Ruth, acting Bishop of Coventry

Ruth Worsley has been acting Bishop of Coventry since November 2023, and is visiting our group of parishes on 20 October for a service at Preston-on-Stour. All are welcome, from all of the villages, and to meet Bishop Ruth over refreshments following the service.

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 19 October**. 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 Michael Ritson 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 409 298 to arrange drop off)
Denise Belchambers- Spring Cottage, Tredington 01608 663696

Wendy Lewis Edwards, Croake Cottage, Frog Lane, Ilmington 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

Apple Juice Bottles For Sale in Stretton on Fosse

Do you make your own apple juice/elderberry cordial or any other drinks? We have a stock of brand new bottles surplus to requirements at just 75p per bottle. Please contact Geri Hunting for further details and collection. 07968 338848 or geraldinehunting@icloud.com.

Geri Hunting

Nature Notes October 2024

As temperatures drop food becomes scarce. Bats, hedgehogs and dormice are the only mammals that truly hibernate, waking up the following March/April. Others have different coping strategies. It is essential for them to build up reserves of body fat by feasting, before finding a safe place to hibernate. During hibernation their breathing and heart rate, slow down significantly so they burn less energy. Their body temperature cools so they feel cold to the touch. How can we help our hibernating wildlife?

Leave some messy areas in your garden; piles of leaves, twigs, dead grass for example which hedgehogs will appreciate or maybe buy/make a hedgehog house. Dormice will make a nest out of dead grass and leaves. Bats will choose a roost (like our local church) or a bat box. At a time when food sources become scarce, hibernation is God's way of enabling His creation to survive.

Gill

ILMINGTON

Ilmington Community Shop and Cafe **Connect with us this month!**

Our Long-table Supper on Friday night (4th October) may already be full, but do call us on 01608 682838 to see if we have last-minute tickets. Book Club is also on the cusp of each month, so depending when you are reading this, come along for a chat and a cuppa in the Community Café at 2pm on Tuesday 1st October or Tuesday 5th November. Everyone is welcome, even if you haven't read the book. (More details on our website www.ilmingtonshop.co.uk) Knit and Natter is on 23rd October at 2pm and Coffee & Connect (your chance to get the practical support you need from Linda of VASA) is on Friday 25th October, also from 2pm.

Ilmington Community Shop Committee

Wednesday Club Next Meeting: 9th October at 2pm

After our last meeting, we have one Treasure Trail pamphlet left so if anyone would like to buy it, they just need to contact me. For those who were not so keen on finding the clues in Shipston, we had a very cosy tea with a variety of cakes made with apples to celebrate the apple season. Our next meeting on 9th October in the Village Hall will be a demonstration of Kurling plus a chance to have a go. This is a sport that is open to all ages and with a weekly afternoon session on a Thursday in the Village Hall, this could be the ideal chance to find out more. Visitors would be very welcome.

We have three birthdays in October, with Mike Matthews on 4th, Betty Bryan on 18th and someone called Carole Clifford on 26th. Happy birthday to you all.

A big thank you to all those who helped and donated to the Wednesday Clubs stalls at the Ilmington Show. We had a very successful afternoon raising a massive £700; our biggest amount yet.

Carole Clifford, Chairperson

Village Hall Wellbeing Events

In September the Ilmington Table Tennis club played host to the Stratford Table Tennis club followed by drinks and snacks in the Red Lion. It was a fun coaching session rather than a competition and much enjoyed by all who took part. In October the club will offer events alternating Tuesday's 2:00-3:00pm with Thursdays 19:00-21:00 to give more people an opportunity to play.

Kurling continues on Thursday afternoons 2:30-3:30pm.

Tai Chi has moved to the new time of Mondays 09:30-10:30 and is proving to be popular.

With all these activities the key ingredients are fun and gentle exercise with fellow villagers and we are very grateful to those who help organise them.

Bryan Clifford, Chairperson

Ilmington Show Supporting the Community

The Show's objectives are

- to provide an event to allow local clubs & societies raise funds to support their own activities
- to generate monies to support village and other local charities, groups and organisations that benefit the parish and its community
- to provide an enjoyable afternoon for families and friends from Ilmington and the surrounding villages

The 2024 Show was a resounding success thanks to the support of generous sponsors, the hard work of stallholders and volunteers, and to over 4500 visitors who came and enjoyed themselves. As a result the Show Committee has an amount of funds to disburse. Any group wishing to make a bid for support, pick up an application form from Ilmington Community Shop or contact the Committee Secretary at 01608 682409 or email s.brock9@btinternet.com. You will need to

state 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 to arrive by Wednesday 6 November. If you need further information please contact Susan Brock.

Susan Brock, Committee Secretary

PRESTON-ON-STOUR

Antiques & Collectables Roadshow - Saturday 5th October

Your opportunity to discover what that little vase your aunt left you is really worth and where it came from all in our village hall! From 10.30 til 1.00 and again from 2.00 til 4.00 Mark Ashley will be giving valuations and information about your treasures. Mark is a renowned tv auctioneer and raconteur with an eye for the unusual. £5 entry to present two items (photos of large objects please) or just come along to enjoy the day, tea/coffee included. Funds raised are for the Preston Environmental Group. Enquiries to Margaret Brocklehurst 01789 450710 or prestonbrocks@gmail.com.

Harvest Supper - Saturday 12th October 7pm

The annual Harvest Supper tickets are on sale now from Hana at the Old School Cafe or from Mick Jennings, 450797 and Margaret Brocklehurst, 450710. There will be a platter of three meats, vegetarian options and with salads and baked potato followed by homemade apple crumble or trifle, all for £12 and £5 for under 10s. Please bring your own liquid refreshments and glasses.

Preston Film Night - Friday 25th October 7 for 7.30

Film Night is back after the summer break with 'Wilding' a true story of Isabella Tree's journey of discovery in the challenging times of change from failing conventional farming to the radical rewilding project in West Sussex.

'Swing from Paris' - Saturday 23rd November

Preston is delighted to be hosting this popular band for an evening of Parisian-flavoured jazz and gypsy swing. There will be a licensed bar, doors open from 7pm. Tickets £14 in advance from swingfromparis.co.uk.

Margaret Brocklehurst, Village Hall

STRETTON ON FOSSE

Stretton Soup Lunches

Soup Lunches at the village hall will start again on October 16th, 12.30pm and will continue on a fortnightly basis. Dates until Christmas will be: Oct 16th and 30th, Nov 13th and 27th, Dec 11th. As in previous years, 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. If you would like to come along but need some assistance to get down to the hall, please let me know and I will arrange for someone to come and collect you. If you would like to become part of the soup making team, either as an occasional cook or helper, please do get in touch - it is not necessary to make a fortnightly commitment!

Geri Hunting - geraldinehunting@icloud.com or 07968 338848

TREDINGTON WITH DARLINGSCOTT

St George Darlingscott

Harvest Festival, Sunday September 29th at 4pm.

All welcome. We will be decorating the church on either Friday 27th or Saturday 28th if you would like to help please come whenever it is convenient for you. Thank you.

Doreen McCarroll, Church Warden

Save the Children Coffee Morning

Please support my Coffee Morning in aid of Save the Children on Saturday 26 October, 10.00-12.00 noon in the W.I. Hall, Tredington. We shall have our usual homemade cakes, gifts, Christmas and greetings cards and children's knitted goods. Free entry but we shall have a raffle. If you cannot attend and would like Christmas cards please contact me. With so many children around the world and in the UK in desperate situations all money raised will be used to help where we can. E: payne.marilyn@btopenworld.com.

Marilyn Payne MBE

Tredington & Blackwell WI

The next WI meeting on Thursday 10th October begins our winter programme when we meet at 1pm for soup and conversation followed by Sheila Robinson speaking about Paranormal Warwickshire. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome. Guests £5. To book a place email secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.com

Gill Goodlad, WI Secretary

Craft and Chatter

Craft & Chatter will meet at 2pm on Thursday 3rd and Monday 21st October. 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 vanesa@tredingtonandblackwellwi.com

Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Tredington & District Garden Club

The next meeting is on Thursday 17th October in the WI Hall. The speaker is Andrew Mikolajski on Plants as Pets (House Plants). Bar open 7-7.30, bring & share table and light refreshments. Non-

members welcome (£5pp). For more information see www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com
Gill Goodlad, Programmes Secretary

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

Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

Community Film Night

Our next film is on Friday 4th 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

Gill Goodlad, WI Treasurer

Hold the Date

The annual WI Christmas Fair will be on Saturday morning 30th November in the WI Hall. Free admission. Refreshments, sale of cakes, cards, decorations, stocking fillers, raffle and much more. Suitable for all ages. Look out for more details in the November magazine.

Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary

OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

A BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN at the HALFORD BRIDGE INN, HALFORD, On Saturday 23rd November, 2024

Do come along and join us 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, with her work 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.' *To reserve a place please contact Liz Harvey: ma.harvey@hotmail.com.
Liz Harvey*

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The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I --
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost
1874-1963



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GOLD WINNER
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Bar opening times

Monday to Saturday: 11am – 11pm
Sunday: 12pm – 10.30pm

Food serving times

Daytime:

Monday to Saturday: 12pm – 2.30pm

Evening:

Monday to Thursday: 6pm – 9pm

Friday & Saturday: 6pm – 9.30pm

Sunday & Bank Holidays

12pm – 7.30pm

FOR BOOKINGS PLEASE CALL 01608 682226

OR

EMAIL: INFO@HOWARDARMS.COM



**THE TRAVEL
DIRECTORS**



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.



Rob Kennedy

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