

A scenic landscape photograph showing a dirt path leading through a field of wildflowers and tall grasses. In the background, there are rolling hills and a valley with fields and trees under a clear blue sky. A green banner is at the bottom of the image.

**The Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine No. 16 July 2024**



Giles Shenton Productions proudly present

The life story of  
Audrey Hepburn

"Fascinating, interesting,  
wonderful. Don't miss it"

Maureen Lipman

"Helen Anker  
is sensational!"

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*The*  
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*of*  
Audrey

written & performed by West End  
and Broadway star Helen Anker

directed by  
Michael Vivian

**Ilmington Village Hall**

**Sat 3 Aug 2024 7.30pm**

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The Downs and Valley Churches

## Tea at Ilmington Rectory!

*All Welcome*

**Sunday 14 July, 2.30-4.00pm**

*Tea, cakes and sideshows*

[Ilmington Rectory CV36 4LB](#) (entry from Upper Green, opposite Village Hall)

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*"intelligent, interesting and inventive"*

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### An evening of Parisian-flavoured jazz and Gypsy Swing

Often described as 'the finest gypsy jazz in the Cotswolds', **Swing from Paris** are a UK quartet of violin, guitars and double bass.

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**Expect stylish jazz and vintage swing.**

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7.30pm – 9.30pm (inc. 20min interval).

Doors and bar open from 7pm.

**Tickets** £15.00 at [swingfromparis.co.uk](http://swingfromparis.co.uk)

Listen: Spotify Apple Music Amazon Music YouTube Music Follow: /swingfromparis /swingfromparisofficial

## Downs and Valley Churches Service Rota July 2024

July 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> Trinity 6		11.00am Holy Communion (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Morning Worship
14 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 7	11.00am or 4.00pm Morning Worship	11.00am Morning Worship	9.30am Holy Communion (1662)		11.00am Holy Communion	
21 <sup>st</sup> Trinity 8		11.00am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	11.00am Morning Worship	11.00am Holy Communion (1662)
28 <sup>th</sup> Trinity 9	4.00pm Evening Worship (1662)	6.00pm Evensong (1662)	11.00am Morning Worship		11.00am Holy Communion	

**Church web-pages** - For further information, please search for the Church name and click on the relevant 'A Church Near You' page. (This is more effective than searching 'A Church Near You' directly.)

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

### Ministers:

Rector: The Revd Canon Dr Richard Cooke 07952 544820 (mobile) or 01608 544821 (landline) or [Richard.Cooke.Ilmington@Outlook.com](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) Helen Patrick  
 Preston-on-Stour Andrew Holman-West 07712 193773 (mobile)  
 Stretton-on-Fosse *Posts vacant – contact the Rector*  
 Whitchurch Carol Rutter 01789 450795 (landline) John Craner 01789 450200 (landline)

Richard Cooke, the Rector, writes:

### **Promises, promises...**

This July edition of the *Downs and Valley Parishes Magazine* should arrive with you just around election day. It feels as if it's been a long wait...but don't worry, I'm not going to suggest you vote one way or the other. Though my thoughts this month are partly prompted by recognising how fortunate we are to be able to vote, and to do so freely.

In the election campaign it has been noticeable that there's been a strong emphasis on reducing, or at least not increasing, taxes, and very limited engagement with the issue of climate change. In that sense it's been a campaign dominated by negatives, assuming that all of us voters are primarily concerned with keeping what we've got and avoiding sharing it with others; and that we are unconcerned about the world we leave to future generations. Now, I know that a good many people are struggling, especially those with young children who are on low incomes. Stories that I hear from other clergy who run Food Banks, such as the one in Shipston, make that clear. But the emphasis on reducing taxes and ignoring climate change tends to focus on what we don't have, rather than what we do, and that's my concern with it. It feeds a mindset which is the opposite of generous.

What's the alternative? A couple of years ago I came across a fascinating book called *Factfulness* by Hans Rosling, a Swedish doctor. It helpfully shows that the world is actually a much better and more hopeful place than we naturally imagine it to be. To take poverty as an example, the proportion of the world's population living in extreme poverty was around 85% at the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today it is around 9%. But what is surprising is that it was only in 1966 that the proportion dropped below 50%, and that since 2000 extreme poverty reduced faster than it had ever done before. At the same time average life expectancy has risen from 31 years in 1800 to around 72 years today, and again the curve has been rising sharply in the last 25 years or so. Even more astonishingly, there is now no country with life expectancy below 50 years. I wouldn't have come close to a right answer if you'd asked me to guess what those statistics were, and nor, apparently, would most people in the Western world.

Rosling puts it more personally when he briefly writes about his own family and looks at the living conditions for the last two or three generations – those who we have some meaningful connection with. When you do that, you can put some faces and names to the way things have improved. Instead of focusing on what we may not be able to have in the future, thinking back like this makes us aware of the incredible changes of the recent past that we so easily take for granted. Survey after survey tends to show that we think things are getting worse. Statistic after statistic tends to show that actually things are improving.

The book is well worth reading, in my view, though beware: it might change how you think! I have obviously hardly done it justice in such a short space. Perhaps its most important and hopeful effect for me is to think that the problems of the world can be tackled and are

not as insurmountable as they easily seem to be. The instinct I see being fed in the Election is that most of us are assumed to want to pull up the draw-bridge and not engage with wider issues. And I hope that's not true.

Of course there's an added dimension for me as a Christian. Seeing the world and our society's issues through faith in God makes a difference, because it makes me feel that we are not on our own if God is with us, and the generous nature that we see in Jesus Christ prompts me to believe that there is genuine hope for the future. Let's see what the outcome of the election brings!

### **School Leavers' Services**

We shall be sad to say good-bye to the Year-6s from both Ilmington and Newbold & Tredington Schools at the end of July. There are Leavers' Services for both schools, in Ilmington Church (17 July at 9.30am) and Tredington Church (18 July at 2pm) respectively, where the leavers will be presented a copy of the Bible from the Churches.

### **From the Registers**

#### **Weddings:**

At Preston-on-Stour on 8 June, Harriet Smith and Mark Jinks

At Tredington on 9 June, Joshua Bee and Rianna Croxford

At Ilmington on 15 June, Rebecca Harvey and Aaron Marriott; on 22 June, Emily Morrison and Duncan Smith

*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 August 2024 issue is Saturday 17 July* 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 James Murray-White 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 July 2024**

Have you ever looked at discarded bird feathers? Their amazing membrane like structure, wonderful colours and different shades. We can see from the feather which part of the bird it came from. Wing feathers

are the longest but sometimes tail feathers are too. From the wing feather we can see if it is from the left or right hand wing. The bottom of the feather is fluffy, providing the bird with insulation against the cold. We say the bird has fluffed its feathers up, when it seemingly looks more "dumpy." The wing feathers are wind proof and the tail feathers are used to steer the bird in flight. They are also water proof. As the song says "When Jesus is my portion, A constant friend is He, His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches over me". Amen.

*Gill*

## **ILMINGTON**

### **Ilmington Horticultural Society Annual Show 2024**

This year's show of fruit, flowers, vegetables, cookery and crafts will take place on Monday 26 August as part of Ilmington Show. The Society's objective is to encourage gardening in our community and its shows offer an opportunity for friendly competition. Anyone can enter whether they live in Ilmington or outside the village and there are special classes for children so all the family can join in. You don't have to be an expert grower, cook or artist but this is a real competition with trophies to be won. Have a go and enjoy producing your best flowers, vegetables, jams, cakes, wines, photos and art and crafts. Schedules and entry forms will be available at Ilmington Community Shop from 1 July and online at <https://ilmington-pc.gov.uk/ilmington-horticultural-society>. If you have any questions contact Susan Brock, Hon. Secretary, E: [s.brock9@btinternet.com](mailto:s.brock9@btinternet.com).

*Susan Brock*

### **Summer Supper and Other Dates**

Friday July 5<sup>th</sup> is the date for our next long-table supper @thecafe. Join us for a convivial summer's evening with friends: still only £20 for three courses, including your first drink and coffee or tea. Tickets from the Community Shop. And don't forget, we hold community groups in the Café all year round. Knit & Natter is on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm. Book Club is on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July (we're reading Cider With Rosie) and again on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August, always at 2pm. Baby Group is on a Wednesday at 10am and we'd love to encourage some new recruits!

*Ilmington Community Shop Committee*

### **Wednesday Club: Next Meeting on 10th July at 1.30**

Paul Williams provided a very interesting and humorous presentation at our last meeting. A big thank you to him for letting us share his background in gardening.

Our next meeting will be on the 10th July where we will be going to visit the butterfly farm in Idlicote (Blackberry farm). If you would like to come, please meet outside the Village Hall at 1.30. There will be a collection of £5 each for Shipston Home Nursing. We can only hope that summer will have arrived by then so the butterflies will be around!

There is only one birthday in the month of July and that one belongs to Gill Gray. Happy birthday Gill on 17th. Till then, I'm looking for some blue skies!

*Carole Clifford, Chair*

### **Swing from Paris: Parisian-flavoured Jazz and Gypsy Swing Saturday 20 July, 7.30pm, Ilmington Village Hall**

"Intelligent, interesting and inventive" ★ ★ ★ ★ – The Jazz Mann Look forward to an evening of Parisian-flavoured jazz and Gypsy Swing, with **Swing from Paris** at Ilmington Village Hall, on Saturday 20 July. Expect stylish jazz and vintage swing. Tickets are £15 in advance from [swingfromparis.co.uk](http://swingfromparis.co.uk).

### **Ilmington Village Hall**

#### **Audrey Hepburn. All she really wanted was to be loved and to find love. Saturday 3 August.**

Glimpse behind the icon in this new biopic play written and performed by Helen Anker. Have you ever wondered what is behind the seemingly idyllic life of Audrey Hepburn? She was, and continues to be, an inspiration. In *The Essence of Audrey* she shares her successes and failures, her triumphs and disappointments, confronting her anxieties and fears and finding the truth she's never been able to voice before. Helen Anker has appeared in many shows in the West End and on Broadway, and in numerous regional productions. She is excited to share with you her one-woman play about the life of Audrey Hepburn, which she wrote and created herself during lockdown. Tickets are £12.50 from the Community Shop. Doors/bar open at 7:00 for 7:30 start.

**Wellbeing events:** Table tennis on Tuesdays 2:00-3:00pm; Kurling on Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm; Tai Chi on Fridays 11:15-12:15 except for the last Friday of the months when it is 1:00-2:00pm.

### **2024 Ilmington Show August Bank Holiday Monday**

There's still time to book a stall or to sponsor the Show which attracted over 4000 visitors last year. The proceeds are distributed to charities and organisations of value to the local community. For further information or to book a stall contact Nigel Dunn via [ilmington-show@gmail.com](mailto:ilmington-show@gmail.com). If you would like to sponsor the Show contact Rob



Beebee at [Robert.beebee@ipu.co.uk](mailto:Robert.beebee@ipu.co.uk). And finally if you would like to help the Show go with a swing on the day, why not volunteer to help. Contact Paul Dakin, [paul.r.dakin@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.r.dakin@btinternet.com), to find out how. And don't forget to follow the Show on Facebook.  
*Susan Brock, Ilmington Show Committee*

## **PRESTON-ON –STOUR**

### **Preston's Village BBQ - Sunday 14th July**

The BBQ team will be serving from 1pm as usual. There will be a selection of meats, vegetarian options and fantastic homemade salads all for £10 a plate, £5 for under 10s.

We have booked a fine day for outside dining - surely summer will be here by then, but if not we will be in the hall. Please remember to bring your own glasses and whatever you would like to drink with your meal. Looking forward to catching up with village friends old and new.

### **Film Night - Friday 26th July**

We will be showing 'Wicked Little Letters' this month. The film is based on a true tale of a foul-mouthed scribbler in 1920s Sussex. It is an acclaimed cast including Olivia Coleman, Jessie Buckley, Hugh Skinner and Timothy Spall. Doors are open at 7 pm for a 7.30 start, tickets are £3.50. No advance booking needed.

*Margaret Brocklehurst*

## **STRETTON ON FOSSE**

### **Stretton on Fosse Annual Village Show**

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

*Marianne Robinson*

### **Circle Dance Group in the Village Hall**

Usually the 1st Thursday of the month, 2.30 - 4pm but, next month we are meeting on **Tuesday**, July 2nd instead because of the election. All welcome - including beginners. No partner required. Wear comfortable shoes! Call Geri Hunting for more details 07968 338848.

*Geri Hunting*

## TREDINGTON WITH DARLINGS COTT

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

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July we will be holding our summer social evening in a member's garden, to include drinks, canapes and ice creams, plus a raffle. Guests are welcome. For more information see [www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com](http://www.tredingtongardenclub.weebly.com).

*Gill Goodlad, Programme Secretary*

### **Tredington & Blackwell WI**

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July members will travel to Hillers Farm Shop for their summer outing, with opportunities for eating, drinking and shopping. Non-members are welcome. To find out more and to book a place contact Marilyn at [programme-secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk](mailto:programme-secretary@tredingtonandblackwellwi.co.uk). The next meeting will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm.

*Gill Goodlad, WI Secretary*

### **Craft & Chatter**

There will be no meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July due to the general election. Chatter & Craft will meet at 2pm on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July in the WI Hall, for conversation, tea and cake, with optional craft. 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*

### **Community Film Night**

A date to reserve in your busy diaries – the next film will be shown on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. All details will be sent to the film email group nearer the time. If you would like to join the email group, contact Gill via text to 07789810877 or email [gillgoodlad@hotmail.com](mailto:gillgoodlad@hotmail.com).

*Gill Goodlad, WI Treasurer*

### **Art Appreciation Course**

This U3A course will next meet on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July from 10.00 – 12.00 in the WI Hall. A few places are still available. Contact Sarah at [sarahjlander@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjlander@gmail.com) for details.

*Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary*

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

These popular techniques that are shown to reduce stress and enhance energy levels. They are suitable for those with all levels of experience (or none) and may be done seated or standing. Classes by Alissa Powell are on Fridays in the hall, 9.30 – 10.30am. To book a place visit <https://breath-therapy.uk/events/> or email Alissa at [alissa@breath-therapy.uk](mailto:alissa@breath-therapy.uk) for more information. £7.00 per class.

*Gill Goodlad, Hall Secretary*

## WHITCHURCH

### Wimpstone: Shakespeare Hospice 25th Anniversary

Tea party in the garden of the Old Forge Wimpstone on Sunday 28th July, 2pm until 4pm. Donations of cakes will be very welcomed. Contact John Craner 07772 623585.

*John Craner*

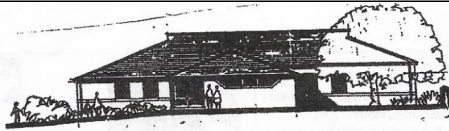
## OUTSIDE THE PARISHES

### **A SUMMER BREAKFAST FOR WOMEN**

**At the Halford Bridge Inn, near Shipston  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July '24 at 9.00am for 9.15am**

There will be a delicious continental breakfast served for £9 with pastries, fruit, juice, yoghurts and coffee and teas. CLAIRE LEE who lives in Moreton in Marsh will be speaking and the title of her talk is 'I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH – OR AM I?'. These mornings are very informal and friendly so do come along and enjoy a breakfast and listen to Claire. Please pay on the day and give Liz Harvey an email to reserve a place on [ma\\_harvey@hotmail.com](mailto:ma_harvey@hotmail.com) or 07914 026451.

*Liz Harvey*



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