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**Lillington Parish Church
St Mary Magdalene's
Magazine**

JAN / FEB 2024

From the Vicar

Dear Friends,

This is the first time I have had the opportunity to write via the Magazine about all the developments that we hope will be part of the coming year. 2023 ended with the joyful celebration of Emmanuel - God with us. Numbers of those attending services were up 10% on the previous year, setting us up to look forward to 2024 with hope and confidence.



As I write this letter, engineers are installing the new Broadcast equipment so that we can continue to stream services to those unable to get to church for whatever reason. New cameras, microphones and controls will give the system we've relied on since the start of the pandemic in 2020 a much needed upgrade.

In addition to this, work on the design for disabled access to the porch is at an advanced stage and all the various permissions required before alterations to a listed building are being sought. It is a costly project, and we are looking to outside sources of funding as well as our reserves in order to pay for it. However, the improvement to the look of the front of the building will be considerable and send out a message of

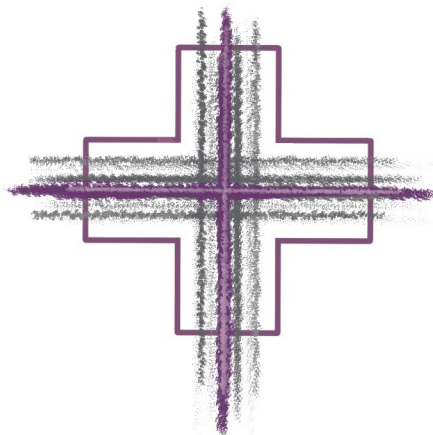
welcome and inclusivity.

Other work we hope to progress this year will be on the seating, the storage and the servery. We hope to introduce flexible seating that will greatly enhance what we can do with the space, and when chairs and tables are not in use there will be a new storage space designed to keep the building looking tidy and well presented. The servery we expect to be located at the South end of the building where the play area and refreshments are currently situated. There are complicated plumbing needs with this aspect of the project but we anticipate a final design soon.

In the meantime, we have the start of Lent soon upon us with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday 14th. Please do hold all that we are doing in your prayers as we seek to bring more and more people to know the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

God bless,

William



January meeting of the Church Council

Charitable support

William began with a follow up from the November meeting in which it had been proposed to canvas the congregation concerning which 12 charities we would support in 2024. The charities are Local, National and International. The following charities received the biggest support: Local charities - Myton Hospice, Lillington Youth Centre, Castle Froma Neurological Unit and the Lillington Pantry. National Charities - Church Homeless Charity, The Children's Society, MacMillan and Guide Dogs for the Blind. International Charities - African Vision Malawi, Water Aid, Cord and Disaster's Emergency Committee.

Control desk at the back of church

Over Christmas, Dave Snatt and Steve Hucklesby constructed a control desk at the back of church from which sound, screen and broadcasting will be controlled. A lot of work had been involved and Dave updated the PCC on progress, together with ideas for recycling pews in the future. The PCC expressed its thanks to Dave and Steve for all their hard work.

Finance

Ian Jamie our treasurer updated the council on the state of the church's finances. We made good strides in closing the budget deficit in 2023 but still face a predicted budget deficit in the coming year of £3,000. It will be important that we continue to work on reducing this gap. Ian is working on the possibility of accessing historic funds from which we currently receive small amounts of interest to allow us to use the capital from these funds to help finance work on the interior of the church.

34 Lime Avenue

The house owned by the church on Lime Avenue was put up for sale in November. The market is slow but there may be

signs that this will improve in the coming year.

Entrance step into church

William updated the meeting on progress with design for the step / ramp into church. A design has been agreed on and is being considered by the Diocese and other interested parties. Materials are expensive and we are working on generating funds for what is a costly but necessary addition to the church.

Scope of the re-ordering project

As plans develop and costings begin to be made, we are turning our attention to external sources of funding. We have received advice that if we widen the scope of our project to include improvements to the kitchen and toilets in the Octagon, we might find that access to a wider range of funding sources becomes available to us. The PCC agreed therefore to explore this as an option, subject to finding someone with the time and expertise to help manage this extra project.

Audio visual installation

The week that the PCC met was the week engineers were in the church upgrading the cameras and equipment for the next chapter in our broadcast ministry. As with most complicated installations it was not without its complications, but the PCC were assured of its eventual completion and of the considerable value to those unable to attend church in person for whatever reason.

Reports

Other reports were presented to the January meeting of the Church Council. These included Fabric, Heath and Safety, Safeguarding, Love Lillington and a report from the Vicar reviewing Christmas.

William Smith

A very musical Christmas!

The festive season is always one of musical celebration, especially here at St Mary Mag's. On Sunday 26th November, we were lucky to be treated to an evening of music and readings by the church choir and friends. What a wonderful occasion it was. Amongst many high points, Roderick Clark regaled us with a lively reading of John Betjeman's 'Christmas' poem, complete with regional accents – both entertaining and moving. We are blessed to have our very own church organist, Mike King, and he provided wonderful accompaniment to the choir during the first half of proceedings. Additionally, he played a lovely rendition of Rheinberger's Sonata No. 5.

Amongst other pieces, the choir performed part one of Handel's Messiah and were happy to be joined by several guest singers. David Borsada; Robert Forbes; Penny Turnbull and our very own chorister Cordelia Gadsby all brought class and a dash of seasonal sparkle to the occasion.



In addition, Edward Button of the King's Singers joined us, his rich countertenor combining beautifully with Cordelia's lovely soprano. Chris Gibson provided brass accompaniment and we were lucky also to have accompaniment from local organ recitalist Colin Druce. It was a really special evening and a full house here at St Mary Magdalene's. Thanks to all who helped make this event happen, especially our Director of Music, Rachael Jefferies.

Sara Snatt

Ash Wednesday

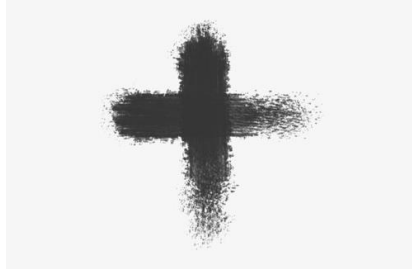
14th February 2024

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten journey towards the cross and eventually Easter.

This year there will be two services.

10.00am Holy Communion Service

This will last for 30 minutes and be followed by coffee



7.00pm Holy Communion Service

This will be a sung Eucharist with an invitation to those who wish to receive the imposition of ashes as a mark of the season of penitence that begins on the first day of Lent.

Support for Ukraine

What's been happening over the last few months

It was a delight to be able to attend the Polish Centre Conference in October 2023. We had a talk about “Dogs of the Polish Army” in the Second World War. The dogs were Ciapek and Smokey. Ciapek was a co-pilot dog who enjoyed flying, and Smokey, who was a Border Collie, used to like going on parachute jumps with the squadron and had his own oxygen mask. The author Wojciech Filaber told us the stories about these two dogs. In fact his books are on sale at the Ukraine Charity Shop in the Royal Priors, and are written for children, covering two age groups. It was also mentioned that the two dogs, stationed in separate squadrons, were a great support emotionally for the soldiers in their regiments, which in times of war is so much needed.

We also had an update from Dawid Kozlowski from the Polish Centre about the Ukraine. Dawid

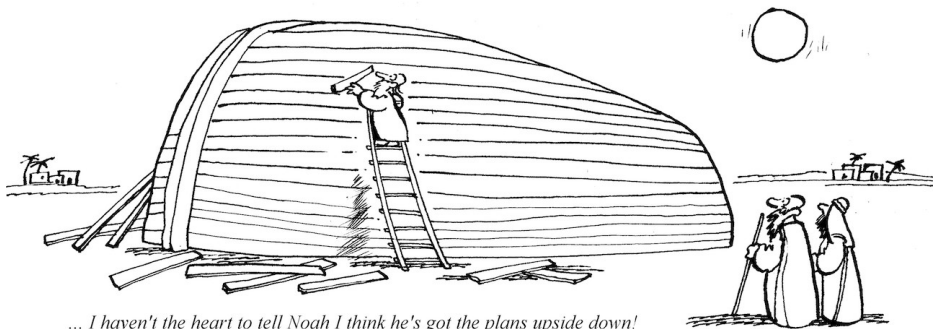


has organised a total of 19 ambulances to be driven out there directly to Ukraine. The latest two were taken on 12th November 2023 - one of which you can see in the photo opposite.

In December, their Secret Santa Christmas appeal gifts for Ukrainian children were delivered - and despite a few problems were delivered in time for Christmas.

A big thank you to those who donated to the Secret Santa Appeal, with a fantastic 1,000 gifts sent out, and those who also continually donate Medical Supplies for Ukraine for the box in Church. These are still so very much needed and they do make a difference.

Margaret Moore and Pat Poulson



... I haven't the heart to tell Noah I think he's got the plans upside down!

The tortoise

A school's inspector was visiting an infant's class to see what they were doing. He stopped by a lad who painted a colourful picture of a man with a long beard and flowing robes, and asked who it was, the child answered; 'That is Jesus.'

'I see,' said the inspector, 'but why is he holding a stone?'

The boy looked at him and replied, 'That's not a stone, it's a tortoise!'

'Why is He holding a tortoise?' enquired the inspector.

Because every morning when we go into the hall, the headteacher tells us to do the prayer that Jesus taught us!

Jan Bennett



Is Old Age Golden?

Old age is golden, I've often heard said,
But sometimes I wonder, as I get into bed,
With my ears in the drawer and my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up
As sleep overtakes me, I say to myself:
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?

When I was young, my slippers were red;
I could kick my heels right over my head.
When I was older, my slippers were blue,
But still I could dance the whole night through.
Now I am old, my slippers are black.
I walk to the shops and puff my way back!

I get up each morning and dust off my wits
And pick up the paper, and read the 'Obits'.
If I'm not there, I know I'm not dead,
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.

Anonymous

Submitted by Jan Bennett

News of Eric and Dorrie Johnson

Eric and Dorrie Johnson lived in Bubbenhall and for various reasons instead of attending their local parish church, attended the then 8am Communion service at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Lillington.

In 2015 they chose to downsize. Their house and garden, which had been home at one time to seven, was too large for the two of them, and so they moved to Christchurch on the south coast quite close to one of their daughters.

At their final service they were presented with a cheque along with their farewells and good wishes. This enabled them to buy six rose bushes which they planted in their new, small garden. The roses have bloomed every year for the past eight years and they are a reminder of the wonderful friendships made as they worshipped at Lillington.

This photograph is one Dorrie took recently of a rose blooming still at the end of October.

So, they have happy memories of St. Mary Magdalene's



during the eight years which have passed. They have permission to officiate in the Winchester diocese and preside and preach from time to time at their nearest church, St. George's, though they prefer to sit in a pew and to identify more with the lay community, as they did at Lillington.

They send "peace and love to you all".

Graham Cooper

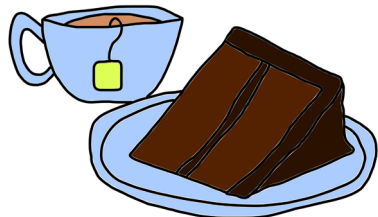
Charity coffee mornings

Raise funds for your selected charity!

There was a successful Macmillan Coffee morning after a Wednesday morning service in church, last year. This year we thought it would be a great idea to expand on this and perhaps have a more regular event. Initially we would like to provide three events during the year for members of the congregation to raise funds for your selected charity.

Just to be clear we will provide the church free of charge – promoting the event and organising the refreshments will be down to you.

Do get in touch with William or Carol Innes if you would like to know more.



What's happening

**Saturday 10th
February 10 to 12
noon**

**Coffee morning with games and
craft activities**

**Saturday 17th
February 6pm**

Film Evening – in the Octagon

**Saturday 24th
February from 6pm**

**Robin & Carol's Annual Quiz (see
poster)**

**Saturday 9th March
from 10am**

**Coffee morning raising funds for
African Vision Malawi.
We will also be making Mothering
Sunday posies that everyone can
join in**

**Saturday 16th
March at 6pm**

Film Evening – in the Octagon

**Saturday 23rd
March at 6pm**

**Beetle Drive – a fun evening for
all ages**



**Coffee
&
Chat**



Hire our Octagon!



Are you looking for a venue? The Octagon is a modern room built adjacent to the church. It can be hired at very competitive rates for small groups, meetings or parties. Please contact the church office on 01926 470449 for details.

Rheams (Plumbing and Heating) Limited

T: (01926) 428 752 E: info@rheams.co.uk

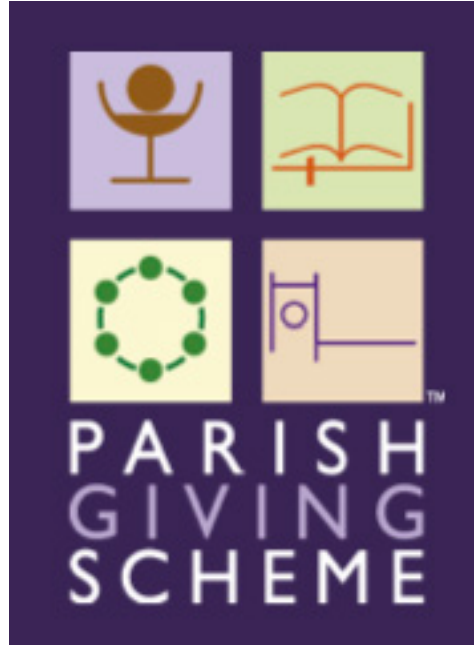
Family run business established in 1967

- GAS SAFE REGISTERED ENGINEERS
- 24 HOUR CALL OUT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK
- FREE INFORMATIVE CONSULTATIONS
- LARGE/SMALL SCALE RENOVATIONS
- NEW BUILDS
- BOILER REPLACEMENTS/REPAIRS
- (natural gas, LPG and commercial)
- LANDLORDS CHECKS
- POWERFLUSH SERVICE
- BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS
- ALL GENERAL PLUMBING

The Parish Giving Scheme

Regular giving helps us to plan and sustains our ministry. If you would like to give regularly, we have recently joined the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), a simple system of setting up a regular donation to St Mary Magdalene's.

There is information about the Parish Giving Scheme and how it works, including a short film clip on the Parish Giving Scheme website at www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors.



There are three ways your donation can be set up through the Parish Giving Scheme:

Online at www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/setting-up-your-gift

By phone on 0333 002 1271 (Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm) and quoting our Parish Code 110611247

By post, by asking our Finance Administrator Kerrie, for a copy of the PGS booklet which has the form in it.

Thank you

Sally Druce

Robin & Carol's Annual Quiz

Tickets from
carol.innes1@gmail.com or
telephone 07758857740

Quiz Night

Saturday 24th February
6-10pm

The Octagon, St Mary Magdalene's
Church, Lillington. CV32 7RH

THE USUAL FORMAT - FOOD FROM 6PM WITH
A PUDDING BREAK HALF WAY THROUGH
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & GLASSES

Tickets - £10 pp

***Proceeds to the Myton
Hospices and Motor Neurone
Disease Association***



Lillington + C

caring for our g

January and Fe

Help protect natural habitats
and enjoy the wildlife

Sat. 3rd Feb 10am Planting-Lillington in Bloom
meet outside the library

Sat. 3rd Feb 10:30am Wellbeing Walk
meet outside the library

Sat 17th Feb 10am Litter pick on Buckley Road
meet at the entrance of Newbold Comyn on Black Lane

For more info:
<https://lillingtonconnect.wordpress.com>



Learn new skills & get creative
Children welcome with adults

Follow on Facebook:
Lillington Connect
Lillington News and Events



Cubbington green spaces February 2024

Get some exercise in the fresh air
and make new friends

Friends of
Lillington
Expressway

Sat. 20th Jan Litterpick
9am

Sat. 17th Feb Litterpick
9am



Meet at the bottom of the Monkey Steps
(between Upper Villiers and Wathen)



Lillington
Connect

Help make our neighbourhood a welcoming,
beautiful & sustainable place to live

CLEAN

Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action
Now are looking for residents keen to reduce heat
loss and save on energy bills. CLEAN can provide
thermal imaging photographs of your home with
follow-up advice.

CLEAN will dispose of plastics that cannot go in the
blue bin and will collect from your home

For more info contact matt.black@pop3.poptel.org.uk

Charity of the month (December)



Cord's vision is a world where all people can live in peace and the fullness of life. Based in Leamington Spa, Cord aims to build peace by tackling the issues that lead to violence. This helps to create safe and stable societies where people can flourish. Cord works with grassroots organisations, enables those in power to understand the importance of working with grassroots organisations and to create opportunities for these two groups to work together. As a result, cooperation and trust develops between different parts of society and people can live in peace and reach their potential.

Gaynor Cook & Sara Snatt

Join Us Online!

Did you know you can attend our church services online?

If you are unable to join us in-person due to illness, caring or travel, you can still join our weekly services. You can join us live if you are at home, or catch up later if you're otherwise engaged.

You can participate from anywhere in the world and from any time zone. We have regular virtual congregation members from Australia and Germany among others!

We stream our Sunday morning service live at 9.30am and our Wednesday morning service live at 10am. There are booklets on our website so you can follow the service.



You can join us via our website:
www.lillingtonparishchurch.org/streaming
or follow us on Twitch:
www.twitch.tv/lillington_parish_church



Do give it a go - you may be at home but you will feel like you are with us in person and we welcome your participation.

Diana Taulbut





Join us at Star Church!

THIS IS WHAT OUR 11.15 SERVICE LOOKS LIKE

Join us for Star Church Worship every Sunday



**FUN * LIVE BAND * REFRESHMENTS *
ACTIVE * FAMILIES * EVERYONE WELCOME**



Parent and Toddler Group
Thursdays 10.30am – 12.00noon
in term-time

**Octotots is an informal weekly
get-together for babies, toddlers and
their grown-ups held at
St Mary Magdalene's church
Vicarage Road, Lillington CV32 7RH**

**The sessions are FREE! and
Refreshments are served throughout**

**Pick up a flier where the dates of our
meetings are listed or contact the church
office to find out more**

01926 470449 – email

lillingtonparishchurch@gmail.com or

check out our website :

www.lillingtonparishchurch.org

Walkers Group

The walkers group meet at St Mary Magdalene Church at 9.30am (unless otherwise stated), and go on a variety of lovely walks lead by different members of the group. See below the dates and leaders - and please do join if you would like to!



Sat 3rd February Ted & Sandra Dear

Sat 2nd March Godfrey & Caroline Carr

Sat 6th April Stan & Helen Ireland

Sat 4th May Thelma Dawkes

Sat 1st June Bob Cooke

Sat 6th July Stan & Helen Ireland

Wed 7th August (6pm) Godfrey & Caroline Carr

Sat 7th September Ted & Sandra Dear

Sat 5th October Bob Cooke

Sat 2nd November Thelma Dawkes

This walk will be preceded by the AGM at 9am

Bob Cooke

Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying this month's issue of Crosstalk. We aim to provide interesting and informative articles for you to enjoy, and to this end invite you to contribute towards your Parish magazine.

Have you got a story to tell? We'd love to know your faith story – how did you come to God? Or perhaps you'd like to tell us about an amusing situation which happened to you, or about a cause which is dear to your heart.

Please send articles to me, Alex at:

crosstalkeditor@gmail.com

by Weds 14th February (March issue)
or Weds 13th March (April issue)

If you have any questions or have an idea for an article but are unsure what to write, please speak to Sara Snatt sazzysnatt7@icloud.com or Gaynor Cook gaynormail@btinternet.com.

Thanks and I look forward to hearing from you!

Alex Robinson



Help to keep our magazine going!

If you have enjoyed reading this issue of Crosstalk and you are able to, please consider donating a small amount to help with our running costs.

Donate cash

In church - look out for the donation box and mark your cash with 'Crosstalk'

Donate via bank transfer or cheque

Our church bank details are:

Bank: HSBC

Account Name: Lillington PCC

Sort Code: 40 27 06

Account Number: 91308580

Reference: CROSSTALK



Thank you for all you are able to give.



**Lillington Parish
Church**





ECO TIP!

Did you know you can make your own eco-friendly cleaning products with just a few inexpensive ingredients?

Make an all-purpose cleaner

150ml water

60ml white vinegar

40ml surgical spirit

20 drops of essential oil of your choice for fragrance

You can use this pretty much anywhere - kitchen worktops, sink, hob, windows, car interiors!

Just mix it all together and put in a spray bottle.

Steve Hucklesby



Phil Edwards
Handyman Services

General Handy Man
NO JOB TOO SMALL!

Whatever you need doing, a dripping tap, some shelves putting up, gutters cleaning, or the garage clearing out, give me a call.

A cartoon illustration of a handyman wearing a green cap, green overalls, and brown boots, carrying a brown toolbox.

Home: 01928 424485
Mobile: 07931 812235
e-mail:
philedwardstrampt@gmail.com

Services in February

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 4 | 2 nd Before Lent | 9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm | Holy Communion (in church & on line) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (in church) |
| February 11 | 1 st Before Lent | 9.30am 11.15am | Holy Communion (in church & on line) Star Church (in church) |
| February 18 | Lent 1 | 9.30am 11.15am | Holy Communion (in church & on line) Star Church (in church) |
| February 25 | Lent 2 | 9.30am 11.15am | Holy Communion (in church & on line) Star Church (in church) |

Weekday Services in February

Wednesdays Holy Communion **in church** and online at 10.00am on
7, 14, 21 & 28 February

From the church records (December)

BAPTISMS: None

WEDDINGS: None

FUNERALS: None



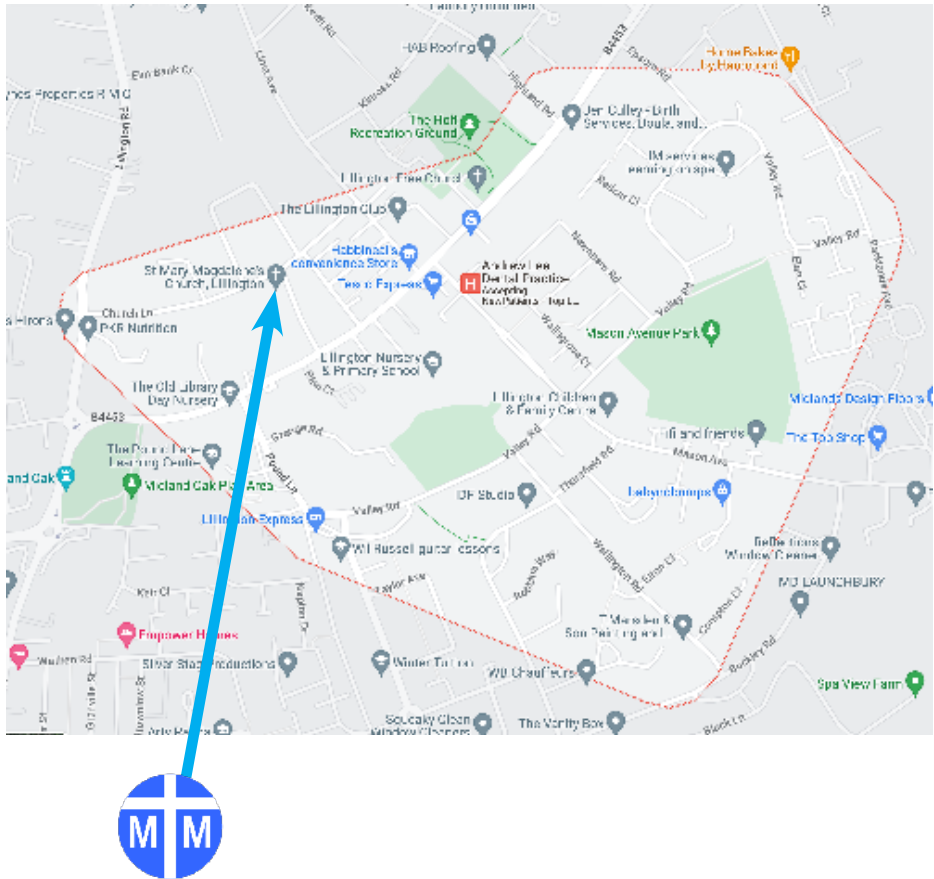
Services are streamed live
and are also available afterwards on the website
www.lillingtonparishchurch.org

For Funeral, Baptism and Wedding enquiries,
please contact Rev. William Smith on 01926 316475
or email wms.smith@btinternet.com

For general enquiries please contact the church
office by telephone on 01926 470449 or email
office@lillingtonparishchurch.org. Outside of office
hours, please leave a message on the answer phone
and we will return your call.



FIND US



**We are on the corner of Church Lane and
Vicarage Road in Lillington!**

**For directions, use Google Maps or email
office@lillingtonparishchurch.org**

CONTACT US

Please do contact us with any questions or queries, or just to say hello!



Church Office & General Enquiries

Wendy Driscoll

office@lillingtonparishchurch.org

01926 470449

*The Church Office is normally open 9:30am to 1pm,
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday*

Vicar

Rev William Smith

01926 316475

Churchwardens

Sally Druce

sally.druce1@gmail.com

07933 295350

Graham Cooper

grahamx.cooper@tiscali.co.uk

01926 426942

Love Lillington

Christine Butler

j.butler1christine@gmail.com

07963 229756



Follow us on Facebook!

facebook.com/LillingtonParishChurch



**In God alone my soul quietly rests,
for my hope comes from Him. Ps 62:5**

Parish website:
www.lillingtonparishchurch.org

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**