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Lillington Parish Church
St Mary Magdalene's
Magazine

MARCH 2024

From the Vicar

“You know what your problem is?
Lack of faith!
And if it isn’t that then it’s because
you’ve not lived a very good life or your
parents didn’t live very good lives.”



This is the sort of response that is often made to people who are suffering. I have known of situations where these are the reasons given for why a person is ill or in pain. And it is more common than we might imagine. When something terrible happens people sometimes say:

“What have I done to deserve this?”

One day Jesus met a man who had been born blind. People around him wanted answers. Was the blindness because of sin or wrongdoing?

Going even further back to the story of Job we find that his suffering was making people ask questions. Why had Job lost his family and his health? “You know what your problem is? Lack of faith! You haven’t lived a very good life!” These are the responses of Job’s so-called friends. The desire to understand and explain is part of being human. We want to have answers and meaning.

But Job's friends got it wrong. The people who were trying to explain the reason for the man born blind got it wrong. And we very often get it wrong when we look for simple answers to the difficult question of suffering.

It is a problem that we agonize over. It is a problem that we want to have explained. Yet, the message of Job seems to be saying that simple answers do not exist. Sometimes we have to look around us and accept that here is a world whose complexity and purpose is beyond the understanding of our finite minds. Job was encouraged to change the way he looked at the world and to change the sort of questions that he was asking.

Some things will never be understood this side of eternity. This isn't easy to accept. But the Christian faith is not about certainty - it is about trust. Trust takes a long time to develop. Suffering is often part of the journey. Simple answers are often tempting short cuts but rarely lead us forward. More often than not simple answers lead to dead ends.

Job was not given simple answers but was asked to look at God. Jesus too refuses to offer easy solutions. Yet what he does, is he shows us the nail marks of a God who walks beside us through sorrow and through joy and who is with us every step of the journey.

With every blessing,

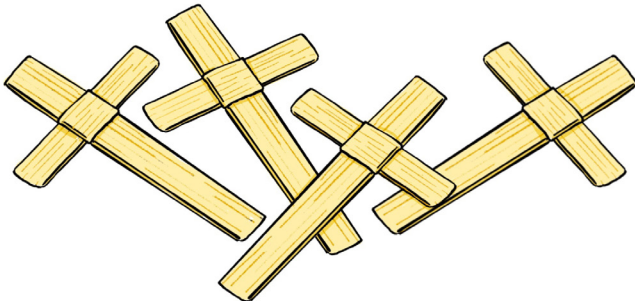
William



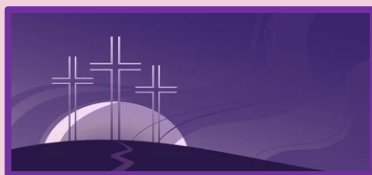
The Pathway of Pain

If my days were untroubled and heart always light
would I seek that fair land where there is no night?
If I never grew weary with the weight of my load
would I search for God's peace at the end of the road?
If I never knew sickness and never felt pain,
would I reach for a hand to help and sustain?
If I walked not with sorrow and lived without loss,
would my soul seek sweet solace at the foot of the cross?
If all I desired was mine day by day,
would I kneel before God and earnestly pray?
If God sent no "Winter" to freeze me with fear
would I yearn for the warmth of "Spring" every year?
I ask myself this and the answer is plain -
If my life were all pleasure and I never knew pain
I'd seek God less often and need him much less.
For God's sought more often in times of distress,
And no one knows God or sees him as plain
as those who have met him on "The Pathway of Pain"

ANON



Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2024



LENT 3 - "Learning"

Sunday 3rd March Reading God's word

LENT 4 (Mothering Sunday)

Sunday 10th Worshipping God in Mother Church

LENT 5 "Transformation"

Sunday 17th March Becoming more like Christ in what we do

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday 24th March Arrival of the king 9.30am Holy Communion
11.15am All Age Service

HOLY WEEK

Monday 25 th March	Holy Week	7.00pm Communion
Tuesday 26 th March	Holy Week	7.00pm Communion
Wednes 27 th March	Holy Week	7.00pm Communion
Thursday 28 th March	Maundy Thursday	7.00pm Communion
Good Friday 29 th	Family Service	10.00am Service
	Liturgy of the Cross	2.00pm Service
	Stations of the Cross	7.00pm Service

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday 31 st March	Vigil & Vows	6.00am Holy Communion
	Octagon Gathering	7.00am Breakfast
	Joint Celebration	10.30am Joint Service



Please join us on the journey

Mary Mags Yarn Café



Dictionary Definition: Yarn

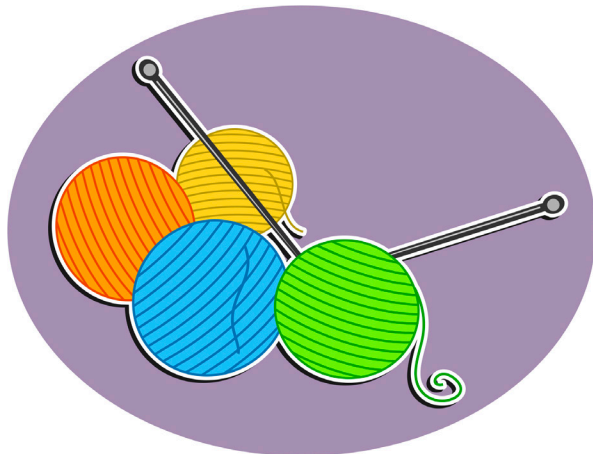
- *thread used for making cloth or for knitting;*
- *a story, usually a long one with a lot of excitement or interest (from which we get 'having a yarn, or having a chat')*

The knitting group is rebranding itself to be a Yarn Café, where you can knit, stitch, crochet, craft or just come and have a yarn. Perhaps you'd like to spend a couple of hours having a tea or coffee, reading a book, playing dominoes, or even just chatting to someone.

When: Second and Fourth Tuesday afternoons of each week, from 2-4pm

Where: The Octagon, St Mary Magdalene's Church, Vicarage Road, Lillington.

Come along and have a yarn ...!



Bee Friendly Leamington

I have been asked to write about the Bee Friendly Leamington group which I have just joined. We are a small group of like-minded volunteers, working towards making our town better for our many bumblebee and solitary bee species, as well as honey bees, by ensuring they have enough nectar- and pollen-rich plant species throughout the year to feed upon. This is just one of the many aspects of the projects we are involved with. Some of the plants for early spring that are suitable for bees include :

Candytuft

Primula species (primroses)

Wallflowers

Forget-me-nots

Hellebores

Anemone species

Grape Hyacinth

This is not a complete list



Our dear earth is struggling and needs all the help it can get.

Another way of helping wildlife is to not tidy our gardens too much! Bumblebee queens hibernate in the ground, just beneath the surface, and need an undisturbed sleep until they are ready to emerge and start a new bumblebee colony in the spring. If you accidentally expose a hibernating bumblebee or a bumblebee nest, quickly and carefully put the vegetation back on top.

Leave some spaces so that wildlife and plants can flourish in a natural way, which is good for insects, bees and butterflies, as well as birds and foraging hedgehogs.

Thank you.

Margaret Moore – also known as Maggie

Saturday Coffee Mornings Recipes

On the second Saturday of each month we hold a coffee morning in the Octagon between 10am and 12 noon. The array of cakes, biscuits etc that are provided each month are mouth-wateringly good. So we thought that you would like to have a go at some of these at home.

In the first of this series we present a Boiled Fruit Cake which is moist and moreish with a slightly caramelised flavour.

Dreedda Reading provided the recipe and says her family make sure there is never any left over.

Dreedda's Boiled Fruit Cake

This is unbelievably simple to make - it's dark and sticky and gets much better with a few days' keeping in an airtight tin.

150ml water
150g caster sugar
110g sultanas
110g butter
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 large egg, beaten
1 tsp baking powder
175g plain flour



Preheat the oven to 180c/350f/gas mark 4.

Grease a 450g loaf tin and line it with greaseproof paper, also greased.

Take a large, thick-based saucepan and put in the water,

sugar, sultanas, butter and bicarbonate of soda. Place the pan on a medium heat, stir the ingredients together and bring them up to the boil. Then boil for 10 minutes exactly -- but don't go away, watch it like a hawk, because if the temperature isn't controlled, it might boil over (the mixture will foam rapidly due to the bicarbonate of soda – which is why you need a large pan!)

When the 10 minutes are up, remove the pan from the heat and allow the mixture to cool.

Once the mixture has cooled, add the beaten egg, and the baking powder and flour sifted together. Give it a good mix, then place the mixture in the prepared tin and bake for about 50 minutes on the middle shelf.

If you make double the quantity it can be baked in a square or oblong tin approx. 28cm by 18cm, rather than a larger loaf tin.

Our next coffee morning is on 8th March raising funds for African Vision Malawi, we would love to see you there!

Carol Innes & Dreedra Reading



Raise money whilst shopping



St Mary Magdalene Church - Lillington has been registered with Easyfundraising since 2020, which means you can raise FREE donations for the church every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support the church funds. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. We currently have only 3 regular people using this app and we have raised over £435, imagine what we could raise if more people joined us! If you want to know more speak to Sally Druce or Carol Innes.

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Help us make a difference when you shop.
Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk



1. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk
2. Sign up and search for St Mary Magdalene Church – Lillington
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Thank you!

Dear friends,

I would like to thank everyone who so kindly supported me through my recent illness with regular telephone calls, good wishes, and prayers. I feel very grateful and it has been a great help when I was trying to avoid infection during my chemotherapy treatment. At such times being part of a caring community is a huge plus and inspiration.

Caroline is also very grateful for your care and kindness whilst she was supporting me. It is good to be back!

Godfrey Carr

A poster for an event titled "Save the Date!". The background is a vibrant garden scene with various flowers in shades of pink, purple, and orange. A semi-transparent white rounded rectangle is overlaid on the center, containing the event details. In the top right corner of the poster, there is a circular logo with a white cross on a blue background and the letters "M M" in white.

Save the Date!

Saturday 22nd June 2 - 4.30

**Lillington Open Gardens
including Plant Sale**

Join us for a day of beautiful gardens

***Cakes *Tea *Coffee**

***Refreshments*Raffle**

All within our lovely parish

Details to follow

Coffee morning for African Vision Malawi

Saturday 9th March

Yes, it's that time of year again and I hope you will come along and support us as always. There will be fantastic cakes, possibly some of Carol's amazing cheese scones, as well as plenty of tea and coffee. For children there will be crafts and games so something for the whole family. We will also have a table sale of new and nearly new items.

This year we will be building a safe Motherhood Unit and a Special Needs and Disability Unit alongside M'Bang'ombe Health Centre, and there are a number of items we need to purchase.



For the Observation Wards at the clinic we need two beds, bedding, side tables and lights. We would like to make some educational screens which will give visual advice on how to use mosquito nets, food groups, kangaroo care for preterm babies etc. which will be designed and printed in African style graphics.

The existing Maternity Unit needs a fresh coat of paint and a new delivery table and bed as the existing ones are very rusty!!

Expectant Mothers come to the Maternity Unit with a guardian, who brings food and stays and looks after the mother until the baby is born. We want to employ local carpenters to make eight beds and side tables. We also need to buy fuel saving ovens so that the guardians can cook for

the mothers.

For the Special Needs and Disability Unit we need bars and steps for carrying out assessments, three desks and six chairs and curtains and lights.

Thank you so much for your continuing support.

Gaynor Cook

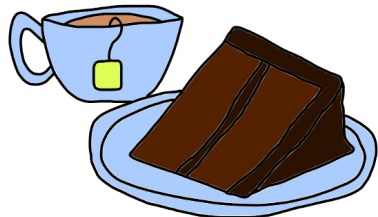
Charity coffee mornings

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.



Charitable giving here at St Mary Mag's

Back in November, it was decided that the congregation would be asked which charities they would like to support for 2024. 12 charities were chosen which reflect a range of Local, National and International organisations. Here are the charities which the congregation has chosen to support:

January	Lillington Youth Centre
February	Lillington Community Pantry
March	African Vision Malawi
April	Church Homeless Charity
May	Disasters Emergency Committee
June	Macmillan Cancer Support
July	Castel Froma Neuro Care
August	Guide Dogs for the Blind
September	Water Aid
October	The Myton Hospices
November	Cord
December	The Children's Society



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.

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- ALL GENERAL PLUMBING

What's happening

Saturday 9th March from 10am **Coffee morning raising funds for African Vision Malawi.**

Saturday 16th March at 6pm **Film Evening — in the Octagon**

Saturday 23rd March at 6pm **Beetle Drive — a fun evening for all ages**

Saturday 13th April from 10am **Coffee Morning in the Octagon**

Saturday 16th March at 6pm **Film Evening — in the Octagon**

Saturday 28th April **Bluebell Walk — Ryton Pools Country Park**



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

On 3rd February, nine walkers set off from The Pheasant at Withybrook leaving the village up the main road to Shilton Lane. At a sharp right hand bend we continued ahead on a bridle way.



At Mobbs wood we went over a stile crossing a field to Mobbs Wood Farm, continuing up the farm drive to Mobbs Wood Cottage where we admired the display of snowdrops. After crossing railway and canal bridge, we took a footpath to the right down 60 steps to the canal. After a distance we left the canal which took us under the bridge of the canal and railway, continuing on a footpath past Hopsford Hall Farm. After coffee we passed a fishing lake, turning right on to Shilton Lane back towards the pub. We had a super lunch and were looked after very well. All are welcome join us on our next walk on Saturday 2nd March - speak to Godfrey or Caroline Carr for details.

Sandra Dear

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 13th March (April issue)
or Weds 17th April (May 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!

Try and eat fruits and vegetables that are in season when you can! Eating seasonally reduces the energy (and associated CO2 emissions) needed to grow and transport the food we eat, and it's usually tastier and more nutritious too.

What to eat in March...

Artichoke, beetroot, purple sprouting broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, cucumber, wild garlic, kale, leeks, wild nettles, parsnip, radishes, rhubarb, salsify, sorrel, spinach, spring greens, spring onions, swede, watercress.



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 Mobile: 07931 812235
 e-mail:
 philedwardsramg@gmail.com

Services in March

3 March	Lent 3	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & on line) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (in church)
10 March	Mothering Sunday	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & on line) Star Church (in church)
17 March	Lent 5	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & on line) Star Church (in church)
24 March	Palm Sunday	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & on line) Star Church (in church)

Weekday Services in March

Wednesdays Holy Communion **in church** and online at 10.00am on 6, 13, 20 & 27 March

From the church records (January)

BAPTISMS: None

WEDDINGS: None

FUNERALS: None



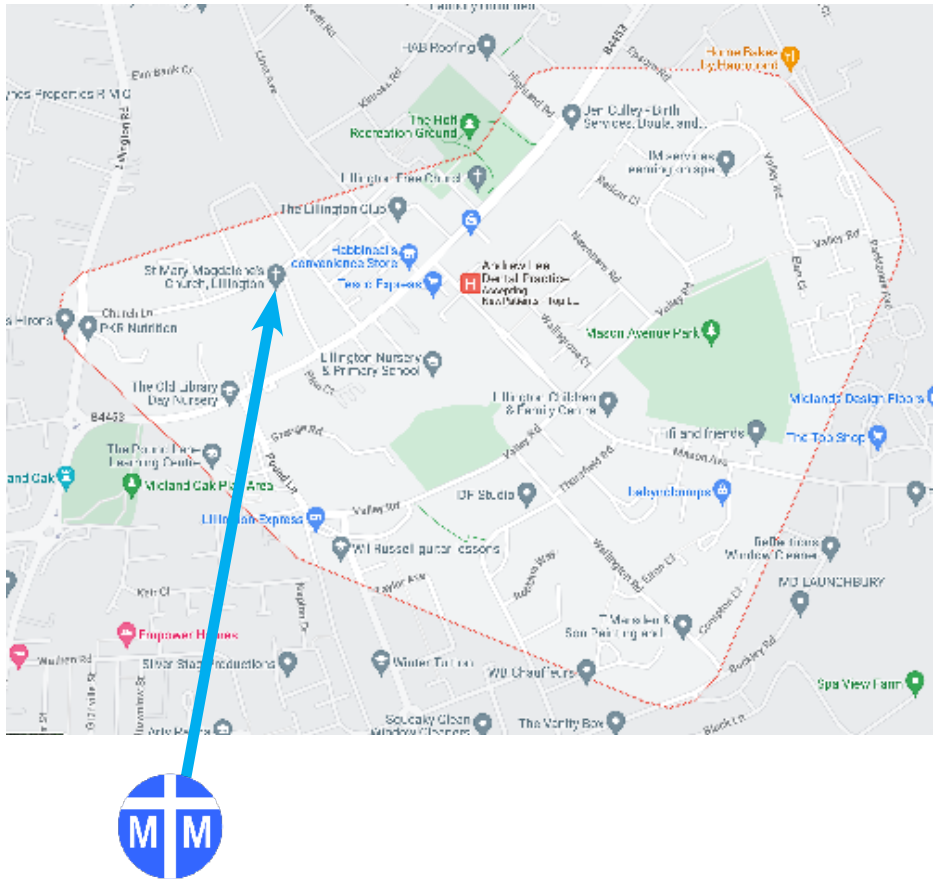
Services are streamed live
and are also available afterwards on the website
www.lillingtonparishchurch.org

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

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07933 295350

Graham Cooper

grahamx.cooper@tiscali.co.uk

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Love Lillington

Christine Butler

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07963 229756



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