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LILLINGTON PARISH
MAGAZINE



Christmas 2024

From the Vicar



Dear friends,

As Christmas approaches, our world feels a rather uncertain and scary place.

The result of the US election, the war in Ukraine and the middle east and ongoing economic uncertainty at home. The first Christmas was no different. The Holy Land was under enemy occupation, Jesus' parent's were unable to find a bed even to have their baby. Political instability and insecurity led to Mary, Joseph and the child becoming asylum seekers in Egypt. Not a great start.

God knows we need peace and stability more than ever. He comes to us with the gift of himself and year by year at Christmas we offer him a place to stay and make his home with us.

When people walk through the doors of St Mary Magdalene's church they are often taken by surprise at the atmosphere. Prayers have been prayed and the story of Christmas told in this place for over 1000 years. This makes a difference to a church and the atmosphere reflects this.

If you are looking for hope in a dark world, the chance to work for peace when so many resort to violence, if you want more from Christmas this year than more debt and and overindulgence then come along to one of our services that we will be holding. Many are inside the church, but others are out in the church yard and in the community.

We love Christmas. It is a light in a dark time, a flickering candle of hope reminding us that we are loved enough for God to come and be among us. Come and join us as we tell again in story and in song of Immanuel - God with us.

With best wishes for Christmas and beyond



Vicar



Christmas Services



Lillington Parish Church

Sunday 15th December

Nine Lessons and Carols 6.00pm

A traditional service telling the Christmas story in verse and song

Christmas Eve

Christingle Service

3.00pm

Christingle Service

4.30pm

Christingle Service

6.00pm

A service for all the family ending by candlelight and in support of the Children's Society

Midnight Mass

11.30pm

The first service of Christmas in the medieval beauty of Mary Magdalene's church

Christmas Day

All Age Communion

10.00am

A family service and an invitation to bring and show presents



All Welcome



Let's get social!

COFFEE MORNINGS 10- 12 midday

Second Saturday of each month, for all ages, and craft activities for the young at heart.



FILM EVENINGS 6pm

Third Saturday of most months from classics to modern to quirky. Chat and refreshments - a proper interval!

QUALITY COFFEE (AND CHAT!)
After all morning services...

BRING AND SHARE more food and social opportunities throughout the year!

FAIRS - Summer and Christmas fun

And lots of one-off events such as ...

Bluebell walks, Board Games, Pies, Pancake parties, Quizzes, Trips, and more!



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. You can also join us in person any time - everyone is welcome.

Diana Taulbut





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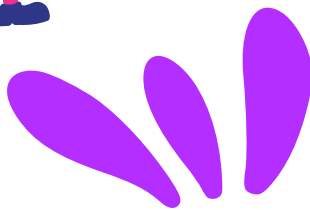
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Church Services

Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion Service

(1 hour service with robed choir)

11.15am All Age Service

(40 minute service with children at its heart)

Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion Service