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PARISH MAGAZINE

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January 2025

From the Vicar

Dear friends,



A new year begins and with it hopes for a more peaceful world. As we leave 2024 behind us let us pray that those areas of conflict that seemed so intractable may be resolved and weapons of war laid down and the healing work of reconciliation begin.

The new year brings with it a new occupant of the White House and we pray for that term of office. But closer to home we will be receiving a new bishop and we pray for Bishop Sophie as she prepares to lead the Diocese in an important new phase.

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed Hester Meacock who will work as our part-time Children's and Families Worker and we pray for all that she will bring to this important ministry. Plans continue to come together for the installation of the new ramp in the spring and we continue to pray for ongoing plans to make the interior of the building more accessible and adaptable.

For me there is a time away from the parish to recharge and refresh. I will be spending an extended period in India where I have many links and where I will be based with a community who work with street children and those in the poorest parts of Bangalore.

All clergy are encouraged to step back for the opportunity to allow God to do the sort of maintenance that is impossible to do in the busyness of the parish. I am incredibly grateful to Cerys who is taking on additional leadership responsibilities during my absence and to Sally Druce and Sarah Boad who as church wardens will be supporting Cerys and the parish while I am away.

May I wish you all a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

William



2024 fun...

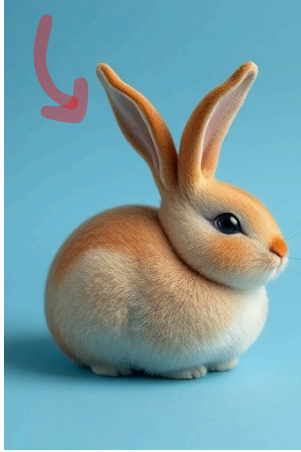
santas little helper

All the fun at the



Christmas Fair

*(A Bun
for
Fun!!)*



Back in November we held our annual Christmas Fair. Carol Innes and the social committee organised the event, encouraging volunteers and collecting gifts and materials for the stalls for weeks in advance. Tickets for the raffle were given to all the members and everyone had the opportunity to be involved in one way or another.

The night before a team of volunteers set everything up in church and in the Octagon. Unfortunately storm Bert was making landfall on the weekend of the Fair so we were fighting against wind and rain.

Pat, Gaynor and Trish's treasure trove



Indeed, it was amazing that anybody ventured out at all on the Saturday, but we were delighted that the good folk of Lillington came nevertheless and filled the church and the Octagon in search of home-made cake, good coffee and bargains galore.

This year Santa took up residence in the base of the Bell Tower and it was certainly the best grotto in town that weekend! It is lovely that the community can come together in this way and that the church continues to be the place where these events can happen.

At the end of it over £2,000 was raised for church funds and we are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time to support it in so many different ways. However, most of all we want to thank Carol who has been involved helping and organising Christmas Fairs at St Mary Magdalene's for over 25 years. She is going to take a well-earned rest and we extend to her our heartfelt thanks to her for her tireless efforts in making the Christmas Fair such a success and such a much loved feature in the run up to Christmas.



William's CHRISTMAS 2024 REVIEW

I know I am biased, but I think that the celebrations for Christmas 2024 were amongst the most joyful ever. Cerys devised a lovely Advent evening service that set us off on the journey to Bethlehem.

Three Sundays focussing on with a theme of prayer provided the focus for our spiritual journey. On the way we played host to three church services for local schools, services in the nursing homes, a carol service in the church yard which attracted the biggest crowd we can remember and carol singing on Crown Way which was done in partnership with our friends at the Free Church.

The choir excelled themselves at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols and I was once again lifted heavenwards as they sang the third verse of “O come all ye faithful”. A production line gathered to manufacture 350 Christingles on December 23rd and three teams of helpers ensured that all those who attended the Christingle services were kept safe despite the congestion and the candlelight. Midnight Mass was a serene experience and Christmas Day was utterly joyous.

Attendance at all the services was up with increases of 24% at the Carol Service and Christingle alone. The bell ringers rang to announce the good news of all that was happening, and we are grateful to them for their dedication again. The church was beautifully decorated by the flower arrangers and we were blessed by so many people helping once again to ensure the light that came into the world at Christmas was proclaimed afresh.

Our challenge as we go into the New Year is to take the good news of Emmanuel into all that lies ahead. Our task as always is to encourage those who feel so comfortable in attending at Christmas to join us as we unwrap and enjoy what God has given us
that love may reign over all and the world be
transformed.



what's on:

✓ YES!

(Crafty) COFFEE MORNING 10.45- 12

Saturday 11 Jan for all ages,
and craft activities for the
young at
heart.

Film
Fun!!!



FILM AFTERNOON Sat 18 Jan 3pm

WED 9th Jan COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF
UKRAINE 10.45 (after midweek service)



Tea!!



↖ a Bun dance?!



We have lots of one-off events such as ...

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

Coffee!
Cake!!!



Robin & Carol's Annual Quiz

'Love is in the Air'

Saturday 15th
February 2025

6.00pm in the Octagon,
St Mary Magdalene's Church, Lillington

Tickets £10 per person

(maximum of 6 per team – we can team you up if you
are few in number)

To include Supper on arrival – **Hearty** Soups and
Lovely Puds

Bring your own drinks & glasses

All funds raised for Myton Hospice and
Motor Neurone Disease Association

Tickets from Robin & Carol, 07758 857740 or email:

carol.innes1@gmail.com

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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

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



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