

the GOOD news

st mary
magdalene's
PARISH MAGAZINE

CROSS
TALK

June 2025



Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last,
the living one. I was dead, and now look!
I am alive for ever and EVER!

From the Vicar



Dear friends,

It has been a few weeks since my return from India and my sabbatical. During my time away including travel there and back I covered over 25,000 miles. I took in total 12 flights in a variety of aircraft including one that made an abortive landing. I also travelled by train, taxi, motorbike and rickshaw. I visited Christian churches and seminaries, Buddhist temples and monasteries together with Islamic mosques and Hindu Temples. I wrote 397 entries in my journal and had the rare opportunity for a period to let go of the weight of parish duties and do some serious reflecting and soul searching. I am so grateful to all who helped fill the gaps while I was away. In particular I would like to thank Cerys who rose to the challenge of extra responsibilities brilliantly.

On my trip, I particularly enjoyed the visits to ‘high places’. In Hyderabad, Chennai and particularly Nepal I was able to visit sights of particular interest that were high above the surrounding countryside. The views were magnificent and in most cases I was able to enjoy the quiet that came with such ascents.

India can be a very noisy place most of the time. With 1.4 billion people it is the most populous place on earth. High places were opportunities, therefore, to step out of this and into the quiet and peacefulness that comes when you leave the hustle and bustle behind.



In the tourist gift shops in Nepal one item predominated: almost every shop had paintings of mountains. The mountains were beautiful and, in the end, I brought a painting of one home with me which I have in my study as a reminder of my visit.

It is no surprise that all religious traditions are drawn to these special places. Almost every high place I visited had some evidence of religious observance or devotion. On one occasion I met a couple of Americans of Indian descent who had climbed to the summit of a hill upon which a giant statue of Ganesh, a Hindu deity, had recently been built. As we chatted, we discovered we shared the same faith in Jesus. “We are here to pray against this statue” they told me. “Why are you here?” I told them I was there because I liked high places and found them peaceful and holy.

They seemed rather cross that someone should have put a Hindu focus of worship on the top of the hill and had come all the way from the US to conduct a sort of ministry of protest! In my view high places are opportunities to leave the troubles and the arguments of the world behind for a short while. In the Bible high places are invariably places of encounter with God: Moses received the 10 commandments on a mountain; Elijah heard God’s still small whisper in a high place and Jesus taught his famous sermon on a mount.

While travelling on my sabbatical I had the great privilege of visiting special places. I saw the great hunger that humanity has for God and the many different paths people walk on in search of a relationship and a connection with the Divine. It is lovely to be back home safe and sound and I hope that in the weeks and months to come, these experiences will enrich and inform my ongoing ministry.

God Bless,
William

Coming next month...

Watch out for a special article by our Project Manager Nick Button in the next article of Crosstalk. He will be explaining the re-ordering that's taking place in our church: processes; what's happened so far and the improvements to our church which will be forthcoming.



What's Happening

- **Sat 14th June 10-1** St MM's Coffee Morning
- **Sat 21st June 1-4 30** Cromer Rd and 110 Valley Road Open Gardens
- **Weds 2nd July 10.30** Coffee Morning **RAISING MONEY FOR WILLIAM'S INDIAN CHARITY**
- **Sat 5th July 5pm** William's Indian Evening
- **Sat 30th Aug 2-5** Quiz with Afternoon Tea **RAISING MONEY FOR BREAST CANCER NOW**

(De-caffeinated options ARE available for the sensitive!)



The Winds of Change



My Dad was a keen weather watcher and following a breezy day sometimes the wind would just stop. This, he would say, was because there was a change in wind direction, which could, of course, indicate rain on the way or the blowing away of existing clouds - a change in the weather. A stillness had descended for a while. I am reminded of this very often now, following the death of my husband twelve months ago.

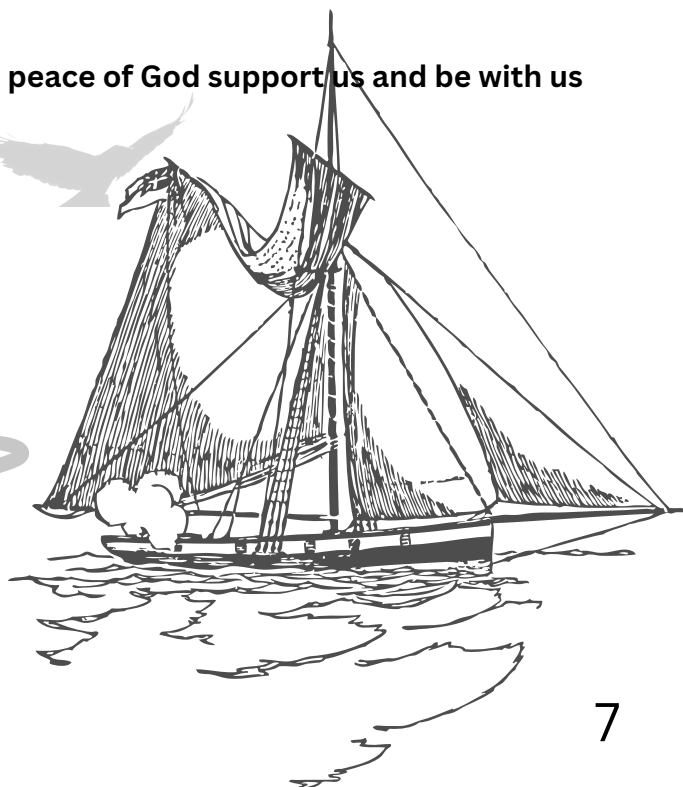
For as long as I can remember, I have been caught in winds coming from all directions, as most of us are. We bring up a family and in later years care for the older members of that family, helping as best we can through all types of illness and general problems that old age can bring. Sometimes, I certainly felt that I was amid not just a wind, but often a gale seemingly coming from all directions. I was busy trying to keep everything afloat, whilst sometimes not knowing which way to turn to do the best for everyone.

But during the grieving and the silence, I now feel like the wind has stopped and there is a change ahead. I am reminded in these quiet times of the words 'Be still and know that I am God'. I am not going to worry about filling each day with things I don't really want to do, or join in with various activities because that is what we are advised to do once we are alone. Instead, this is a time to, not so much reflect on the past, but instead ask myself, who am I? No longer a daughter or a wife - I am just me. I believe that God does have a plan for me and that He will bring that change when He knows that I am ready for it. So, for now, the silence isn't quite so loud, and I am embracing it as a time of solitude, self-awareness and most importantly, rest.

Who knows what the winds of change will bring for all of us, or from which direction they will come? But I have faith in the Lord that this is a time of calm for me, at least for a while. A new chapter in my life will begin when the good Lord knows that I am ready.

May the stillness and peace of God support us and be with us all.

Jan Talbot





I often walk up through our beautiful churchyard, entering through the lychgate, pausing as I choose which way to walk up towards the church. This spring it has seemed to me to be particularly special: first the snowdrops, followed by crocuses and daffodils and then, I now realise, my favourite spring flower - the primrose. Masses of them cover every part of the churchyard, nestling in the corner of steps and crevasses of old graves. Such a joy.

Sometimes I see a gentleman sitting on the lovely bench in the lower part of the churchyard, completely absorbed in a copy of Crosstalk. I leave him in peace and meet other people walking through who often stop to speak or to ask me who cares for this beautiful place.

Churchyard team please note how much your work is appreciated by all. Dog walkers stop and chat as their pooch makes for the welcome bowl of water outside the Octagon.

What I really sense though is that the churchyard has been prayed in many, many times over the years; for me there is a real sense of God's Holy Spirit in this special place. I shall keep visiting and sometimes maybe just sitting there for a while.

A decorative banner with colorful triangular flags in shades of pink, blue, green, and gold hangs across the top of the page.

JOIN US FOR A COFFEE MORNING

SATURDAY 14TH JUNE

10 - 1

**Plant Sale
Great cakes
Kids' crafts**



***ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
VICARAGE ROAD CV32 7RH***

FISH & CHIPS IN THE GARDEN?

Do you love fish & chips? I do and there's nothing better than smothering them in salt and vinegar. However, this eco article is about weed killer – so what's the connection? Firstly, the ingredients in this weed killer are salt and vinegar and secondly, it's much more friendly to the fishes (and other animals!)

You will need

- Spray bottle (reuse an old kitchen cleaner spray bottle)
- 500ml white vinegar (available in most supermarkets)
- 2 teaspoons washing up liquid - preferably an environmentally friendly one
- 2 tablespoons salt

Method

- Add your salt to your vinegar in the spray bottle and shake until dissolved.
- Once the salt is dissolved, add your washing-up liquid and agitate gently.

How to use your homemade weed killer

Using your solution to remove weeds is easy: for small weeds spray the solution directly onto the leaves. For larger, more well-established weeds, spray the leaves and pour a good glug of the solution onto the plant. It's very effective – you should notice the weeds beginning to wilt within A DAY OR SO.

Warning - do **not** use on flower or veg beds as the salt will damage the soil. If you need to use on the garden just omit the salt: it will still work, but the weeds will come back again as it doesn't kill the roots.

Other remedies:

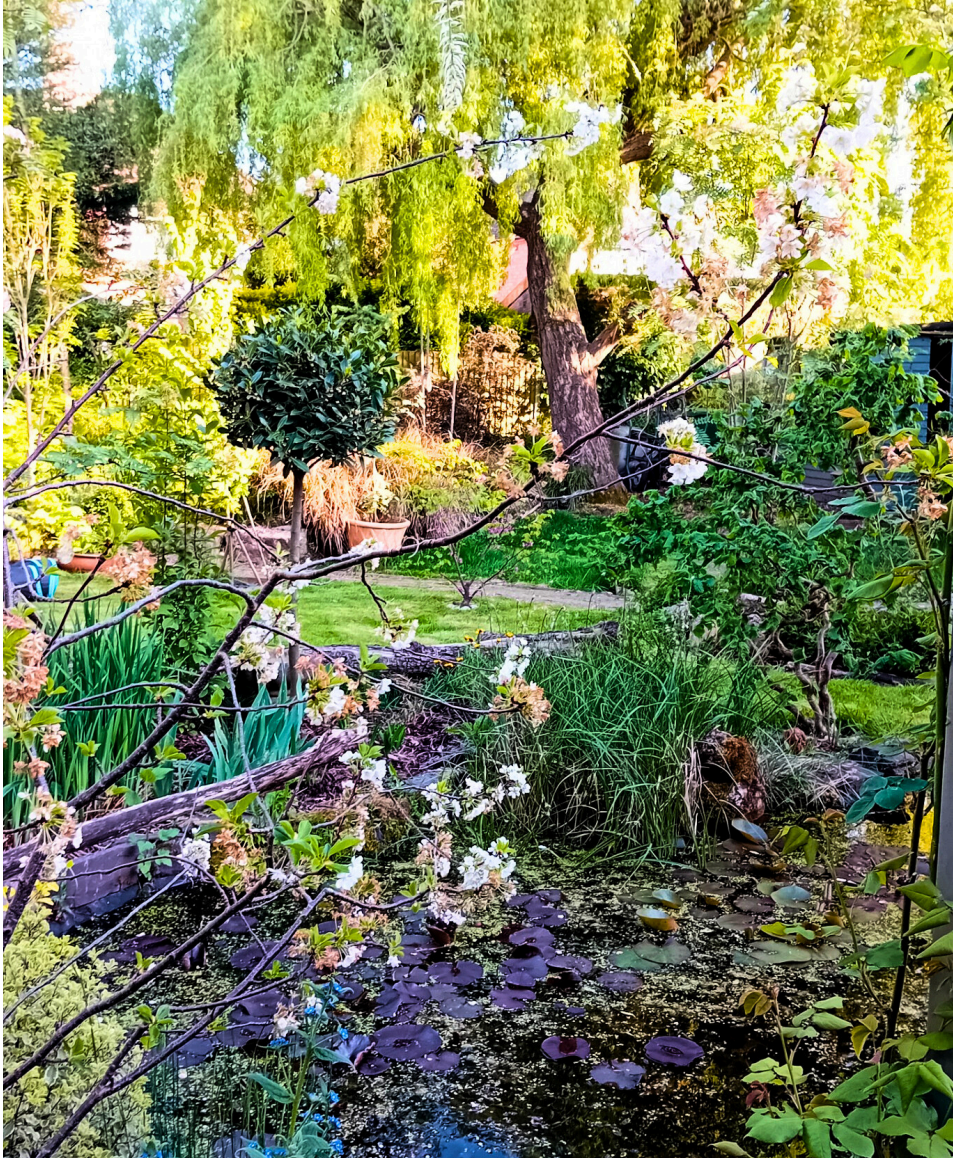
- Boiling water or just neat salt on stubborn weeds
- Mulch the garden using cardboard or home-made compost, or even old carpet!

And of course, when you've finished those fish and chips you can put the paper in your compost bin!

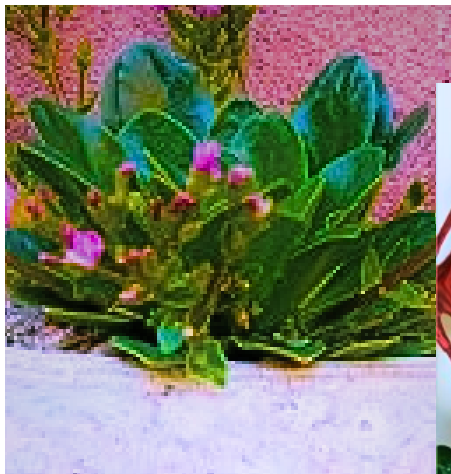
Carol Innes



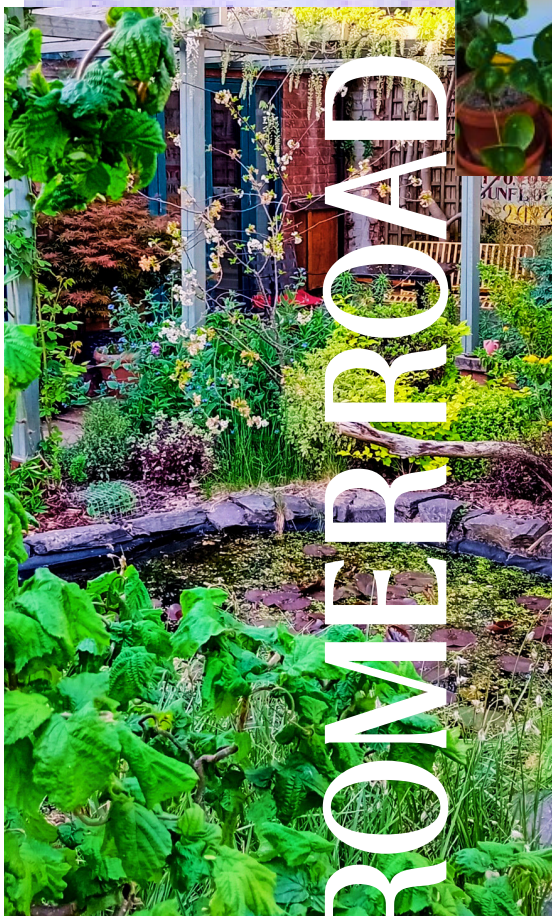
Open Gardens 2025



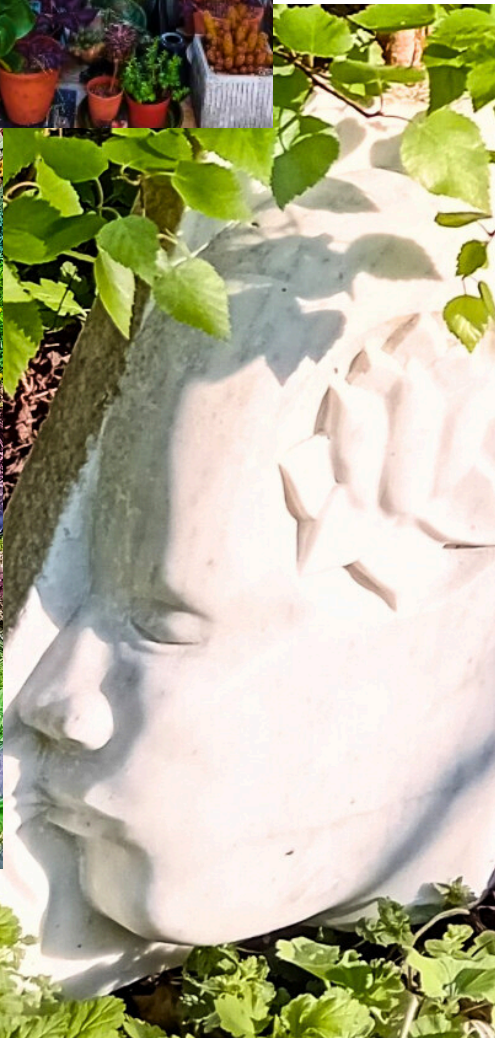
We're looking forward to welcoming you to 2 lovely gardens this summer. Here is a taster of some of the features you'll see at 30 Cromer Road. See our OPEN GARDENS poster for more information...



30



CROMER ROAD



SATURDAY 21ST JUNE

LILLINGTON

OPEN

GARDENS

**SUPPORTING ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH
AND LEAMINGTON SKY GARDEN**

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30 CROMER RD CV32 7RZ AND

110 VALLEY ROAD CV32 7SD

EXPLORE 2 BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

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1PM-4PM

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£5

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**GET IN
TOUCH**

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If you have a passion for writing and want to make a meaningful difference in your community, we want to hear from you!

- Faith stories
- Experiences
- Humour
- Hobbies
- History

Send your articles to Sara Snatt at
crosstalk@lillingtonparishchurch.org

After church lunch is happening: May 11th,
June 8th and July 13th.

Sunday Club (2ish - 12ish!) is happening :
April 27th, May 18th, 22nd June and 13th July

YAY!

27/ 4 / 25	Why do we pray?	6 / 7 / 25	David
4 / 5 / 25	How do we pray?	13 / 7 / 25	Esther
11/ 5 / 25	What did Jesus say about prayer?	20 / 7 / 25	Daniel
18/ 5 / 25	Unanswered prayers	27 / 7 / 25	Psalms
1/ 6 / 25	Contemplative prayer	3 / 8 / 25	Psalms
8 / 6 / 25	Abraham, Sarai and Hagar	10 / 8 / 25	Psalms
15 / 6 / 25	Moses	17 / 8 / 25	Psalms
22/ 6 / 25	Deborah	24 / 8 / 25	Psalms
29 / 6 / 25	Ruth	31 / 8 / 25	Psalms

Prayer for all; Old Testament Tales and the Psalms

St Mary Magdalen Church
Vicarage Road
Lillingdon.



Lord hold me
In Your everlasting arms,
Enfold me,
In Your everlasting arms.
Let striving cease,
That I may come to rest,
In perfect peace,
Renewed and truly blessed.
Lord bathe me,
In Your everlasting light,
Lord raise me,
In Your everlasting light,
Awake my mind,
That I may understand,
And come to find,
The truth of who I am.
Above the silvery bay,
A bird rose on the breeze,
Then swooped as if to say,
You too may fly
with ease.
Lord lift me,
In Your everlasting love,
Home swiftly,
In Your everlasting love,
I'll go to where,
A temple stands upon a hill
In silence there,
I'll wait upon Your will.
Lord lift me,
In Your everlasting arms,
In Your everlasting arms,
In Your everlasting,
Ever lasting arms.

MUSIC



Mike Scott/The Waterboys
Scottish musician
Song: Everlasting Arms



THE BELLS OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

St Mary Magdalene's is the parish church of Lillington, Leamington Spa. The tower at the west end of the church was built in the fifteenth century and holds eight bells. The oldest of these bells is number six, which was cast in about the year 1480 by Thomas Harrys. Because of the difficulty of transporting heavy weights by land in those days, the bell was probably cast in the churchyard, or even in a pit dug in the floor of the newly built tower. It would then have been relatively easy to hoist the bell to its position at the top of the tower.

Around the crown of bell number six is the Latin inscription 'SANCTA KATERINA ORA PRO NOBIS' (Saint Katherine pray for us). This is probably the same bell that was hung in the tower when both were new. The bell would have been rung when the priest was celebrating mass and would have been clearly heard by workers out in the surrounding fields, who would have paused briefly in their labours to offer up a prayer.

By the middle of the next century, the tower held three bells as identified on an inventory ordered by the Privy Council of King Edward VI in the year 1551. Items deemed unnecessary or undesirable were removed from the church and sold because 'The Kinges Majestie had need presently of a masse of money'. St Mary Magdalene's was left again with only one bell - that dedicated to Saint Katherine.

In 1625 a new bell, cast by Hugh Watts, was hung beside Saint Katherine's Bell and fifty years later, in 1675, a third, cast by Henry Bagley, joined them. So there were again three bells in Lillington, at a time when the art of change ringing was becoming popular.

Change ringing is the practice of ringing a number of bells and varying the order or sequence in which they strike. Three bells may be struck in six different orders. They are:

1 2 3

2 1 3

2 3 1

3 2 1

3 1 2

1 3 2

If the pattern of changes is repeated one more time, the order returns to 1 2 3 and the process may be continued. Number 1 is the smallest bell with the highest pitch and 3 is the largest and deepest. These changes were probably rung regularly at St Mary Magdalene's church for the next three hundred years until, in 1927, five more bells were added by Mears and Stainbank of the London Bell Foundry, vastly increasing the number of changes available.

The number of possible changes with eight bells is

8 x 7 x 6 x 5 x 4 x 3 x 2 x 1 which comes to...

40,320!

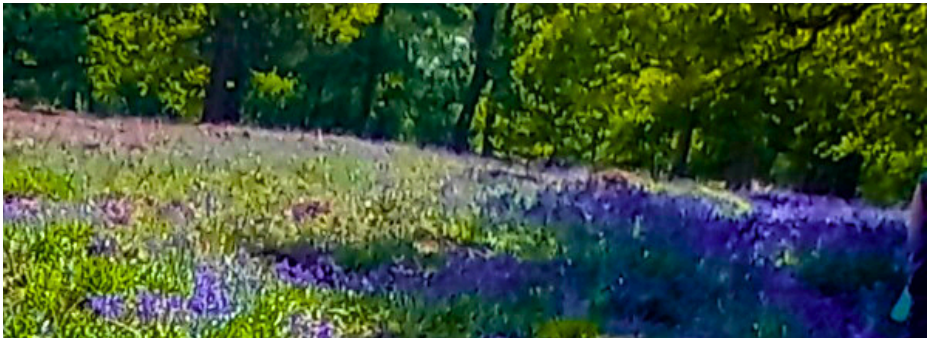
The number of ways in which these changes can be ordered is still being explored - new patterns or methods are being devised all the time. This used to be done with a piece of paper and a pencil; now it is done by a computer and methods of ever increasing complexity are being devised to test the brain of even the most dedicated of campanologists.

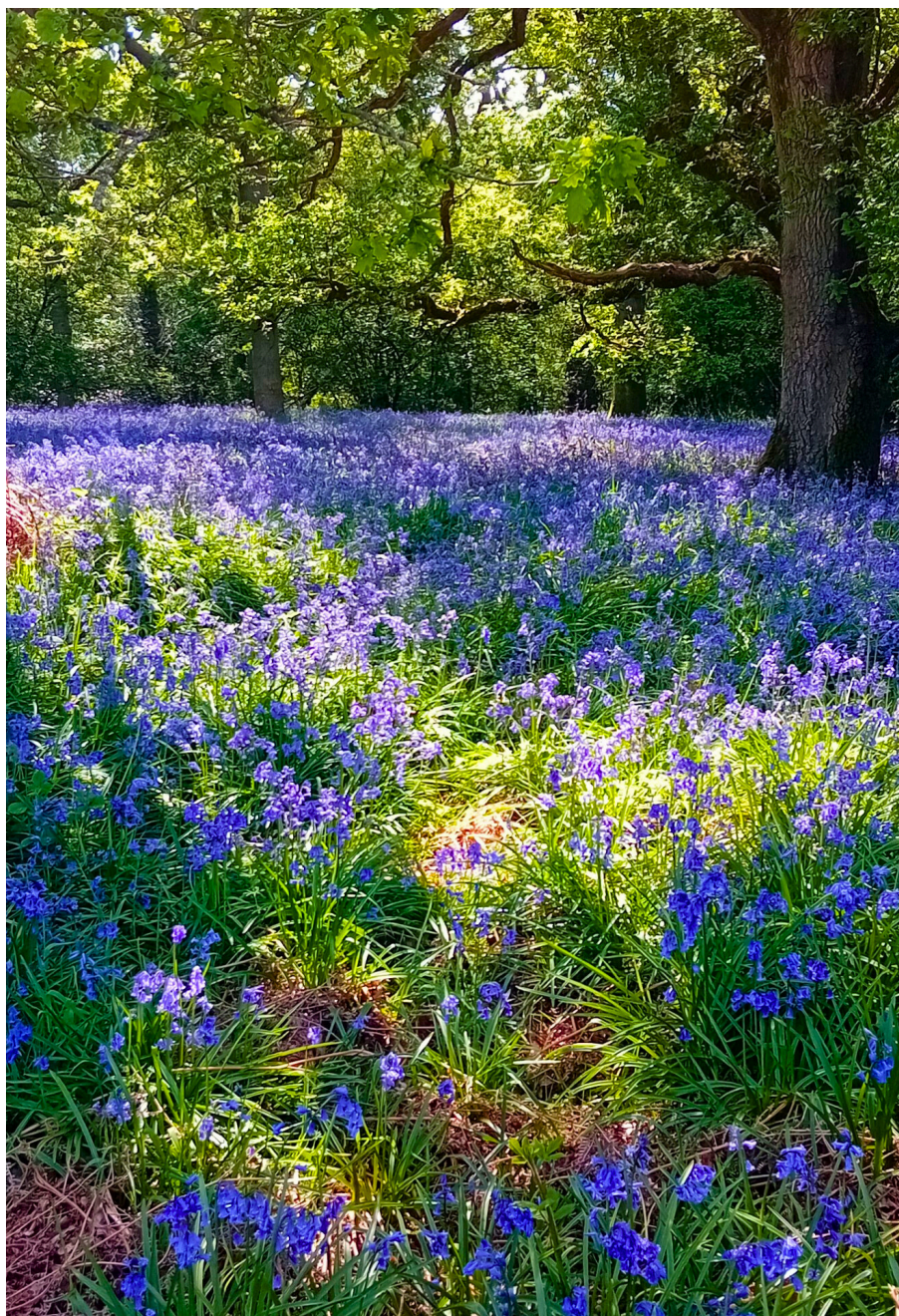
John Nutt

Bluebells outing



On Saturday 4th May, a merry band from St Mary Mag's met up to walk through the beautiful woods at Ryton Pools. The bluebells were out in full force and there were many other wildflowers to see besides. After such a long walk, sustenance was needed in the form of coffee and pastries! Another lovely trip - thanks to Pat Poulson for organising. **Sara Snatt**







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Blooming Lovely

We hope you enjoy seeing jolly flowers outside the Octagon - we enjoy planting them there. We'd love donations of more plants to develop this space and keep it looking cheery!

Gaynor Cook and Sara Snatt



COPY CATS

Can you draw these cats?
(Your drawing HERE)



(and HERE...)





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Lillington Parish Magazine**

Advertising Rates 2024

Annual (11 issues):

¼ page £120

½ page £150

Full page £180

Single month:

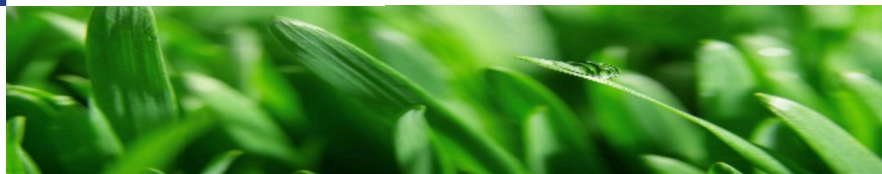
¼ page £20

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To find out more, please
contact Mark at

crosstalk@lillingtonparishchurch.org



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From The Church Records

Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
		Joyce Hodgetts

Sunday Worship

1 June Easter 7	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & online) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (in church)
8 June Pentecost	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All and shared lunch (in church)
15 June Trinity	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)
22nd June	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All/ Sunday Club (in church)
29th June	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)

Weekday Services - Holy Communion in church/ online at
10am on Wednesday 4, 11, 18 & 25 June

Services are streamed live and are available afterwards on our website: www.lillingtonparishchurch.org
For Funeral, Baptism and Wedding enquiries, please contact Revd. Cerys Smith on 07813782512 or email curate@lillingtonparishchurch.org

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.





CONTACT US!

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vicar@lillingtonparishchurch.org

CURATE: Cerys Smith 07813782512

curate@lillingtonparishchurch.org

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lovelillingtonaction@lillingtonparishchurch.org

CROSSTALK:

crosstalk@lillingtonparishchurch.org



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

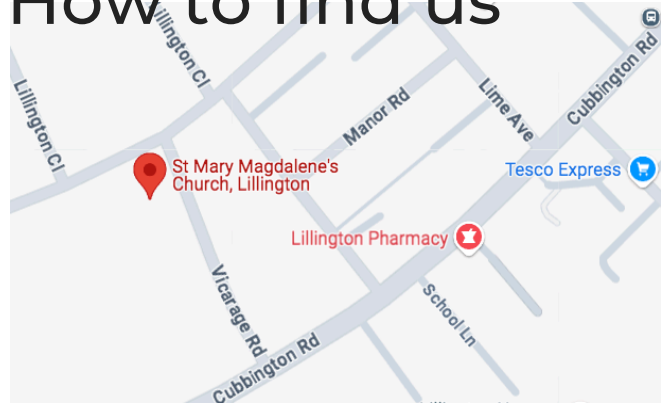
OR you can now join us via our website:

www.lillingtonparishchurch.org/streaming

or follow us on Twitch:

www.twitch.tv/lillington_parish_church

How to find us



Vicarage Rd, Lillington
Leamington Spa CV32 7RH
01926 470449