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THE GOOD NEWS

st mary
magdalene's
PARISH MAGAZINE



March 2025

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away,
for now the winter is past, the rain is over and
gone and the flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come...



Dear friends,

One of the things I enjoy most about India is the constant variety of sights, sounds and smells. It often feels like I have become a child again as I look at animals, plants and situations that are eye catching or unusual. I never cease to enjoy the presence of cows in all the traffic. The cow in the picture on the right was on a good little number patrolling a more up-market side of town and charming the locals. The owner of the shop seemed positively delighted to be able to feed her a big juicy banana.



The streets are crowded and people manage to carry all sorts of things either on their heads or bicycles or their scooters.

It is now illegal not to wear a crash helmet while on a scooter or motorbike, but it is a rule that doesn't seem to apply to passengers and this lady's four children are balanced precariously on the front and rear. Health and safety is beginning to become a feature of life out here but there is still a long way to go. Crash helmets are worn but almost never strapped on so would be pretty useless in an accident!



In Bangalore

there is an ever-present reminder of its associations with when the British were here. A statue of King Edward VII stands proudly in the main city park and his mother Victoria occupies an equally regal spot at the other side of the park. The churches and some of the old colonial buildings remain but are increasingly being dwarfed by the city skyscrapers of this amazing city.



Thank you once again to all who are praying for this trip and those holding the fort and at home. Please can you pray for the following:

Please pray: One of the five churches here at Bethesda ministries has had to be demolished. It had become unsafe. It ministered to a very small poor community, and they are waiting on God for funds to rebuild it – it is the size of a medium sized front room

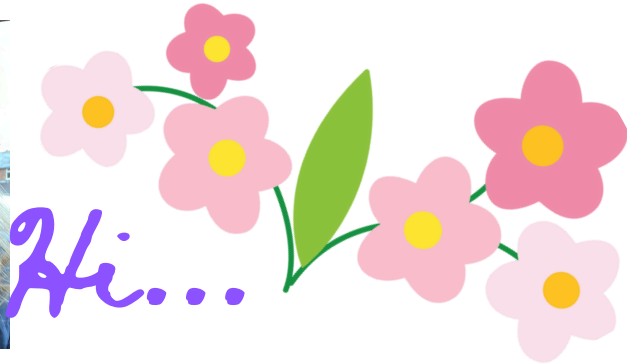
Please pray for the tens of thousands in Bangalore who still have to collect water every morning and who lack proper sanitation.

Please pray for those who have no access to health care and who are entirely reliant on begging in the streets.



New Sunday Club at Star Church!

‘That was really good - I liked that!’ and **‘Thanks, that was good!’** were very encouraging comments from two of the children after the first of our new monthly Sunday Club sessions alongside the 11:15 service, the first of which took place in January. What made them even more rewarding to hear was that they came from different ages across the group: one of our oldest members and one of the younger ones.



My husband, Sam and I have been members of St MM for six years and we have three girls ranging from eight to one year old! I have had experience of similar focused work to this project in other churches and I am a trained primary school teacher. This role encompasses varied hours, with some fixed points too each week. In addition to this I also work as a lecturer in Early Years Education and Development.

I am delighted to report that we had nine children join us in the first Sunday Club session and three team members who all enjoyed their time together. Also positive was feedback that the adults who remained in church enjoyed getting some deeper teaching whilst the children were at Sunday Club.

When planning the children's work that will occur on Sunday mornings, we have identified 21 children with whom we are in contact through the 11.15 service; it feels like a really exciting time for this project to start!

I have also really enjoyed being at Octotots for the last 4 weeks and it has been a joy getting to know the team and families who come. I am delighted to report that Octotots is thriving and a very happy place for parents/carers to bring their children. We have a range of ages up to school age and lots of grandparents who seem to travel the country to attend (as they are looking after their grandchildren)! I met a grandmother this week who travels 5.5 hours weekly from Newcastle and comes to Octotots on Thursdays with her grandchildren!

For your information, we have eight aims for the project during the year, two of which are covered above:

Aim 1 of 8

Start a Sunday club (/Sunday School) ministry through an All Age service on a monthly basis.

Aim 5 of 8

Develop the ministry of Octotots and start linking the group into an all age service.



I look forward to sharing further aims with you over the next few months and providing updates on how things are going. If you have any questions please do get in touch or if you would like to join any of our team I'd be delighted to chat to you!

Hester Meacock



LOVE LILLINGTON

Loving our community with
Prayer • Money • Action

Love Lillington has a Coffee Morning on Saturday 8th March from 10.00am – 12.00 noon in the Octagon.

Supporting this event means your donations will increase the money in our Love Lillington Grant Fund. Keeping this fund healthy continues to enable us to gift new items to the marginalised, vulnerable and poor people living in our parish who cannot manage to buy them for themselves.

Love Lillington Action also enables us to purchase materials when our volunteers work on short term projects assisting with decorating, garden tidying and other needs.

There will be a Children's Craft Area, a Gift Table Sale and the usual excellent coffee morning offerings of delicious savoury snacks/cakes /coffee/tea/and hot chocolate with marshmallows!!



See you there!

With our thanks

Caroline Carr

Love Lillington Prayer

lovelillingtonprayers@lillingtonparishchurch.org

Delia Button

Love Lillington Grants

lovelillingtongrants@lillingtonparishchurch.org

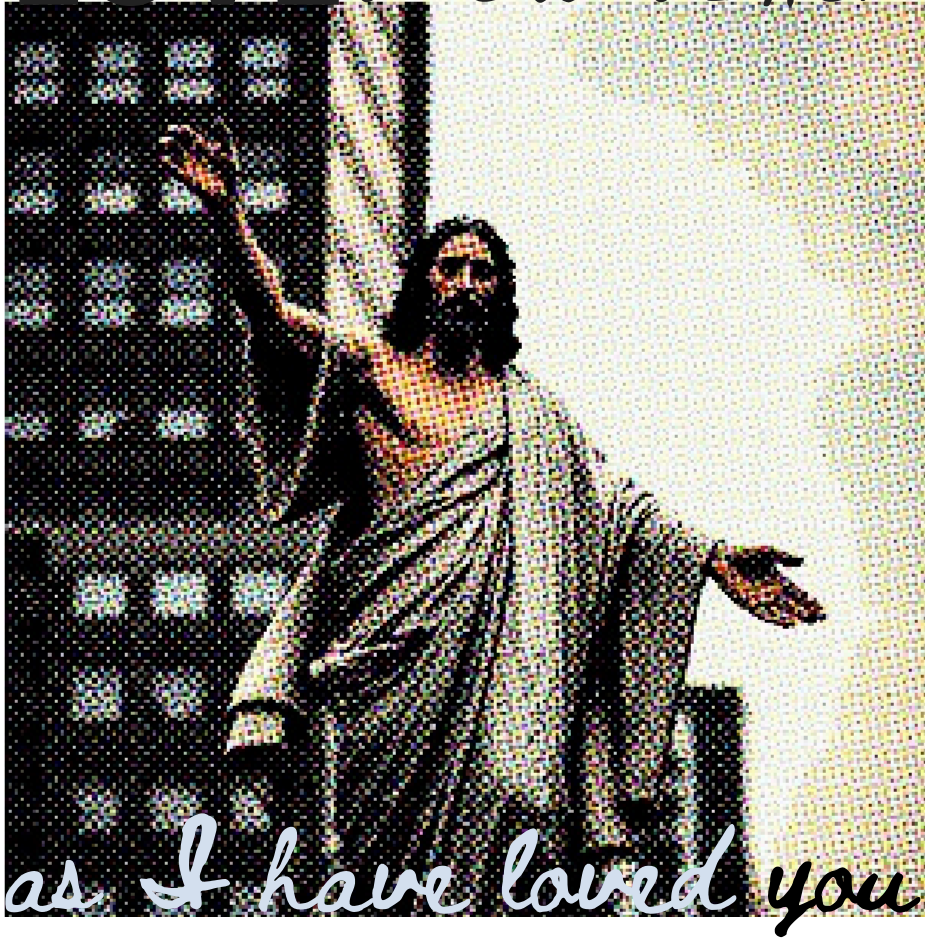
Christine Butler

Love Lillington Action

lovelillingtonaction@lillingtonparishchurch.org



LOVE *ONE ANOTHER*

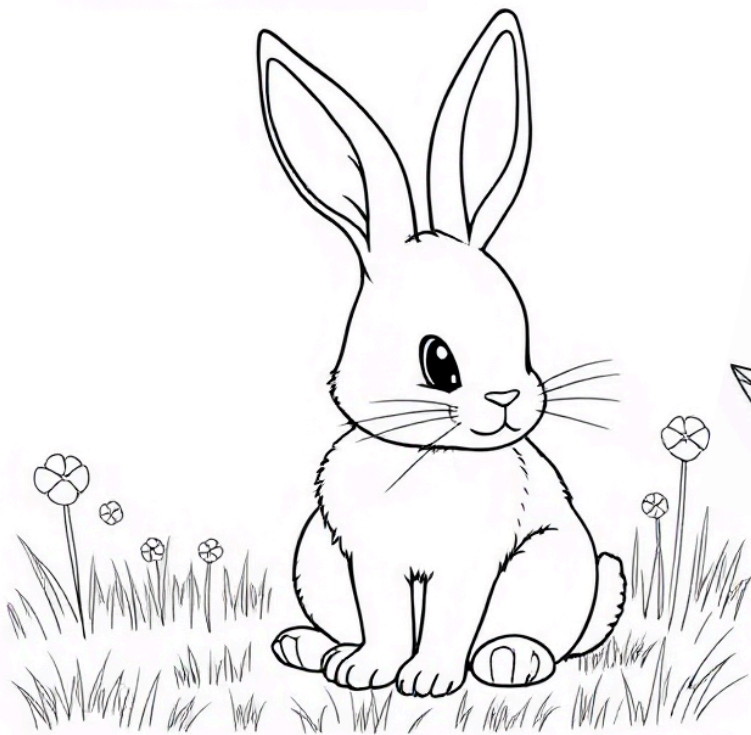
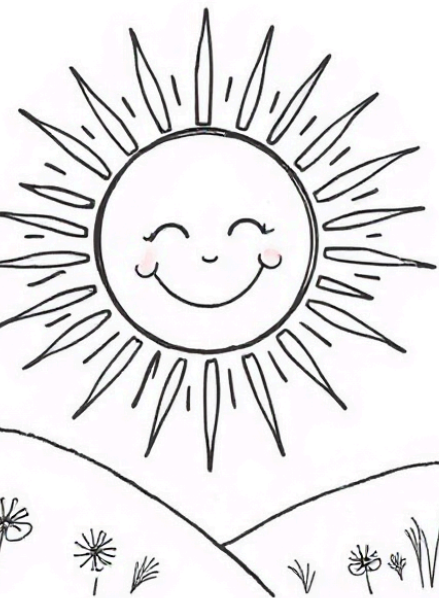


as I have loved you

*This is the message you have heard
from the beginning:
We should LOVE one another...*

[keep it simple]

Colour me in!



Memories of my time in Malawi



African Vision Malawi is celebrating 20 years this April. Such a lot has been achieved during that time: schools and pre-schools renovated and built; a new maternity unit; a training village where people learn new skills; installing boreholes; supporting students through senior school and university and so much more.

I travelled to Malawi many times over fifteen years and have so many memories of doing things I never dreamt I would do (often way outside my comfort zone). In a country like Malawi, 20 years ago there were no builders' merchants down the road when you needed huge quantities of cement. I had to search to find a company that would sell it to me and then find a lorry driver who would be prepared to drive me and the cement to deliver it to various villages. I didn't know that I would drive trucks full of building materials out to schools so that toilets could be built for the students, or that I would go round schools on the back of a motor bike. Being a founder of African Vision Malawi changed my life and I have loved every minute of it.

One of the things I loved doing the most was visiting schools in the area we support. We now have 20 schools in Malawi linked to schools in the UK and each year we set a theme; schools here and in Malawi exchange work on that theme - last year it was food and growth.



Photographs by Gaynor Cook

Sarah, who spent three years working for us in Malawi as Country Manager, went back with a friend, Philippa in October. Philippa had never been to Malawi before and the two of them visited all the schools, taking with them the work prepared by children from schools here along with gifts of pens, pencils, exercise books as well as some much needed resources for the teachers. They also took a couple of dressing up items (fruit costumes) which they used at each school. You can see from the photo how much the children enjoyed this.

The staff at every school said how much they valued and appreciated the school partnerships and the support they received. Sarah and Philippa gave their time and paid all their own expenses. In spite of fuel shortages, sometimes terrible storms and coping with daily water and power cuts, they had a wonderful time and managed to visit all the schools, bringing back work prepared by the children in Malawi for the children in the UK. We will be holding a fund-raising coffee morning on 10th May in the Octagon so please come along, so that we can continue this vital work. Thank you so much for all the support you have given us. Zikomo kwambiri.

Gaynor Cook



What's Happening

Saturday 8th March 10-12 Coffee Morning in aid of Love Lillington

Saturday 12th April 10-12 Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd May Bluebell Walk at Ryton Pools (watch this space for details)



Colour me in!





Walkers' Group

February walk

On Saturday 1st February, 10 eager walkers set off from The New Inn at Norton Lindsey to walk off their Christmas excesses! We decided to keep to tracks rather than muddy fields and more or less managed to do that. We headed out of the village, stopping to admire two beautiful signposts commemorating the Jubilees of Queens Victoria and Elizabeth II. It was a dry, cold day but everyone seemed to enjoy the walk.

Walking past some converted barns, we noticed one was called Gunpowder Cottage. The story is that some of Guy Fakes's cronies ended up in a barn across the field. We ended back at the pub and enjoyed a lovely lunch which was appreciated as they had no electricity when we left. Disaster! 😞 We thought we would end up with sandwiches...

Sandra and Ted Dear

Walkers' Programme for 2025

Date:	Led by:
Tue 4th March	Godfrey & Caroline Carr
Tue 8th April	Stan & Helen Ireland
Sat 10th May	Thelma Dawkes
Tue 10th June	Bob Cooke
Sat 5th July	Stan & Helen Ireland
Wed 6th August (6pm)	Godfrey & Caroline Carr
Tue 9th September	Ted & Sandra Dear
Sat 4th October	Bob Cooke
Tue 4th November	Ted & Sandra Dear

(This walk will be preceded by the AGM at 9.00 am)

There will be no walk in December or January

All walks start from St Mary Magdalene's Church at 9.30 am unless otherwise stated.



(AI interpretation of a walk near Norton Lindsey)

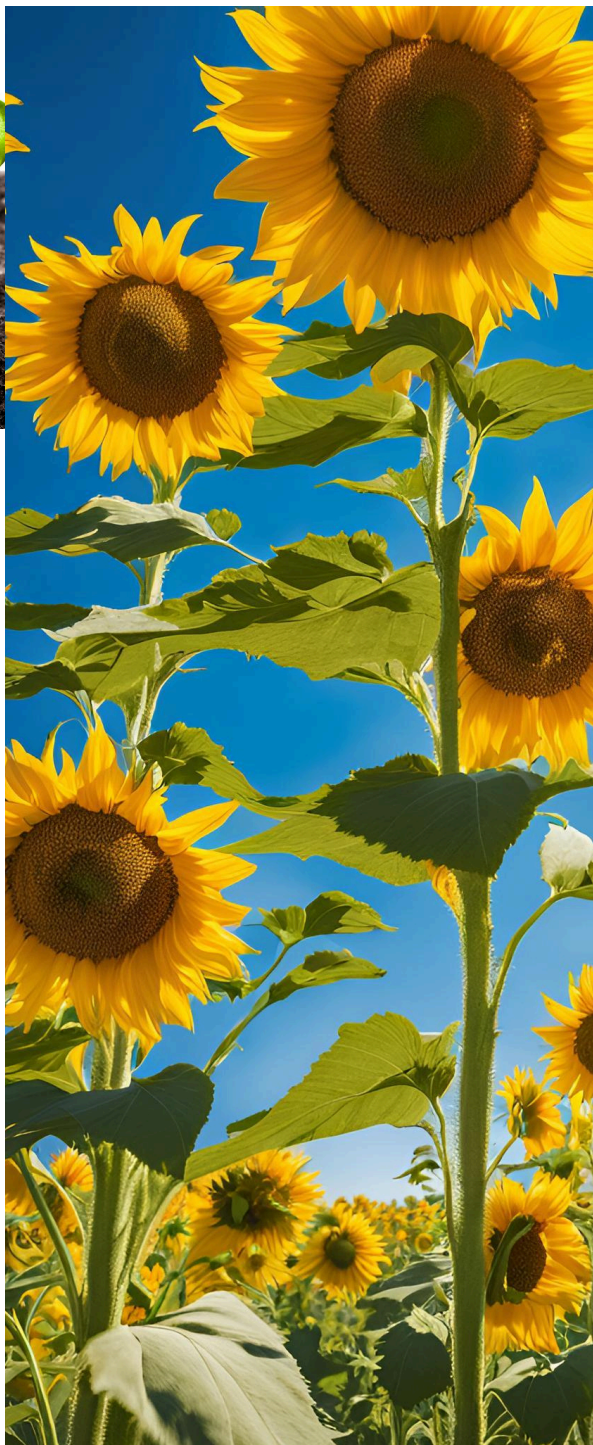
Sunflower project



Many of you may have noticed that in 2024, sunflowers kept appearing in Lillington.

The plan was to grow 10,000 sunflowers and the number planted certainly got on for that. Private gardens, the library, health centre and school as well as our very own churchyard were awash with bright sunny blooms, all thanks to a merry band of volunteers and a group of local environmentalists with big ideas. Local poet Matt Black who heads up C.L.E.A.N (Cubbington and Lillington Environmental Action Now), first came up with the idea to plant 10,000 sunflowers.

He wanted to create a project that would bring together all the many small but active volunteer groups, and get them working on one project.



With the help of Leamington Sky Garden (which I head up) and Arty Folks, a plan was devised and the hunt began for donations of compost, pots, seeds and most importantly somewhere to raise all these plants. Generous donations of the above along with ‘spreading the word’ brought all that was needed together, whilst friendly gardeners collected seeds to grow on in polytunnels and greenhouses around the parish and beyond.

June 1st saw the culmination of all these efforts with the Plant Out Day - this was a windy affair, but loads of volunteers turned out and trays of seedlings were dispatched to their various locations around Lillington and Cubbington. Passers-by were cheered and impressed with the flurry of activity; it is hoped that with the repeat of the project in 2025 even more residents in the area will take part!

It was lovely to pause and chat with the volunteers and to feel part of a positive and uplifting project. I’m looking forward to building on this enthusiasm in 2025 and adding in some extra twists to the project, to keep people on the edge of their seats.

The close of the year’s project was marked with celebrations in music, poetry, comedy and art at Lillington Social Club. There was also the showing of an excellent short film that captured all the action of the day. This can be viewed at leamingtonskygarden.uk.

Plans are afoot once again to bring colour and joy to our parish with several events, all of which are opportunities for you to get involved:

A Launch Event at The Crest on 29th March
Potting Up Day on the weekends of
April 26/27 and May 3/4th.

David Snatt



Coffee Morning



In aid of Love
Lillington

WITH KIDS' CRAFTING

QUALITY
ITEMS FOR
SALE!!



SAT 8TH
MARCH

10 - 12

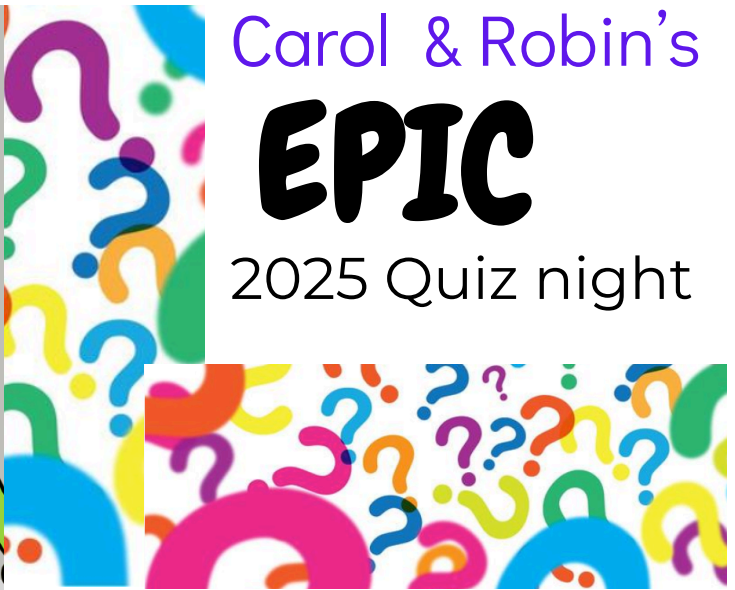
ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
LILLINGTON CV32 7RH



Carol & Robin's

EPIC

2025 Quiz night



When we started our quizzes back in 2013 we never imagined we would still be doing them 11 years later. Numbers have varied from 40 to 60 people and the Octagon was getting a little cramped, so for the last couple of years we have moved into the church, and this year with 73 people it was still cramped!

The theme this year was 'Love is in the Air' – well it was the day after St Valentine's! We couldn't think of anything foodie wise to serve so instead the evening began with hot home-made soup. Leek & Potato proved to very popular, and nearly 35 litres of soup were consumed, along with 10 loaves of bread (but no fishes)! Our first round was Love and Marriage and questions about couples, babies, and even Torvill & Dean got a mention. Other rounds included Love Nest (all about birds), Love – All (sports and hobbies), The Gooseberry round (odd one out) and many others. Half way through we stopped for a pudding break – and the surprising hits were Bakewell Tart and Banoffee pie. We ended the evening by drawing the raffle and a request to clear away the tables and pews, as everything had to be put back to normal for the Sunday morning service.

As usual our two main charities are The Myton Hospices and the Motor Neurone Disease Association, both causes having personal family connections. We were delighted with the attendance and the generosity of those there in buying raffle tickets – but also to those who were unable to come and still donated to these worthy causes. This year we were able to donate £455 to MNDA and £405 to Myton, and in addition we made a £240 donation to the church – so if you are any good at maths that was a grand total of £1100 raised. Thank you all so much!!

We did make an announcement that this could be our last year doing the quiz as we are finding all the furniture shifting and to-ing and fro-ing with food etc to be quite exhausting (we spent most of Sunday in a darkened room only coming out for drinks and to reload the dishwasher for the umpteenth time from all the soup/pudding bowls and cutlery!) However, the feedback from our lovely supporters is that they want it to continue, even if we have to change things a bit to make it more manageable. Well, we hate to disappoint and we would love to add to the money we have already raised, which is around £8000 since 2013, so watch this space for news of the 2026 Quiz!

Carol Innes

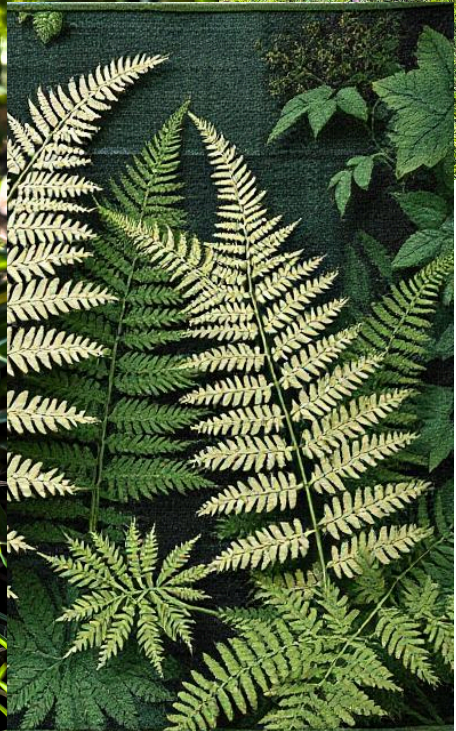
Hire our Octagon!



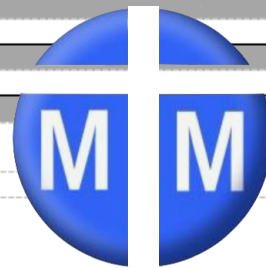
**Are you looking for a venue?
The Octagon is a modern room built adjacent to the church. It can be hired at very competitive rates for small groups, meetings or parties. Please contact the church office on 01926 470449 for details.**

Thankyou!!!

Debra Tedds is the newest recruit to our Churchyard Maintenance Team and she has been encouraging the “boys” to do great work around the area of cremated remains stones. It is looking great! **Christine**



BAPTISMS		
NONE		
WEDDINGS		
NONE		
FUNERALS		
NONE		

**SERVICE DETAILS****SUNDAY WORSHIP – March 2025**

2 March	1 st Before Lent	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & on line) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (in church)
9 March	Lent 1	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & on line) Worship for All (in church)
16 March	Lent 2	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & on line) Worship for All (in church)
23 March	Lent 3	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & on line) Sunday Club (in church)
30 March	Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & on line) Worship for All (in church)

*Services are streamed live
but are also available afterwards on the website*

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.



**St Mary Magdalene,
Lillington Parish Magazine**

Advertising Rates 2024

Annual (11 issues):

¼ page £120

½ page £150

Full page £180

Single month:

¼ page £20

½ page £30

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To find out more, please
contact Mark at

crosstalk@lillingtonparishchurch.org



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CONTACT US!

CURATE: Cerys Smith 07813782512

curate@lillingtonparishchurch.org

GENERAL enquiries & office:

Wendy Driscoll 01926 470449

office@lillingtonparishchurch.org

WARDENS:

Sally Druce 07933295350

sally@lillingtonparishchurch.org

Sarah Boad

sarah@lillingtonparishchurch.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

music@lillingtonparishchurch.org

LOVE LILLINGTON

Christine Butler 07963229756

lovelillingtonaction@lillingtonparishchurch.org

[facebook.com/LillingtonParishChurch](https://www.facebook.com/LillingtonParishChurch)



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

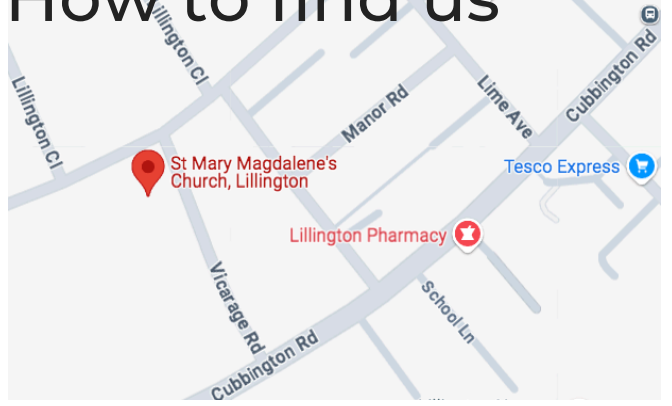
OR you can now join us via our website:

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

