

From the Curate

Dear friends,

I am writing this during Holy
Week and as William's time on
sabbatical draws to a close.
While William has been in India,
I have been left in charge,
leading with Sally and Sarah,
the Church wardens - keeping
the show on the road; all the
balls in the air and all the
plates spinning.



There is much that goes on in a parish behind the scenes and not just on Sundays (although that is a large part of the job).

The last four months have been a whirlwind of busy parish life with all the usual services on Wednesdays and Sundays, and events such as coffee mornings and Carol and Robin's Quiz. I also led a group to Holy Island on retreat (see previous Crosstalk) which was a privilege and something I would want to continue to do in my future ministry.

Behind the scenes there are many meetings such as PCC as well as school assemblies and visits to all the local nursing homes (we have four in the parish!) We have also been working hard to progress the plans for the new ramp and other building projects.

Over the last four months I have journeyed alongside grieving families as they have come to us for funerals and burials of their loved ones who have recently died. I have also had the joy of baptising the youngest family member from our congregation. It was a privilege to welcome them into the family of Christ and celebrate 4 generations of the family!

William being on sabbatical has also given me the opportunity to lead during the season of Lent, where we explored how we can be reconcilers in our lives and in the world around us, and to lead the celebration of the festival of Easter. I hope you were able to join us in some way during this time.

I have learnt a lot. I have learnt a lot about me, my leadership style and the responsibilities a vicar has in their parish. I want to take this opportunity to thank Sarah and Sally for their continued hard work and support. I want to thank all the volunteers and everyone involved in maintaining the church in all its various ways, and I want to thank you for all your support and encouragement during this time.

Thank you.



Memory: A Shortcut to the Shops



One of my earliest memories as a child was taking a shortcut to the shops over some rubble of bricks and mortar. I was 3 years old. It was rough going and my mother, who was leading me, had a difficult time finding footholds as we had to be careful where we were putting our feet. This meant though that we got to the shops quicker, as it cut out three sides of a rectangle - three roads in fact.

It was only years later that I understood that the rubble was from houses which had been bombed during the Second World War. Then, the rubble seemed to symbolise the people who had died. Did my mother think of these people just as I am doing now?

Can there ever be an end to war? Is there a short cut to PEACE?

After reading the above words to my friend Gabrielle, I noticed that her hands went together as in prayer. "That's it - prayer!" we both thought. Prayer is the answer to war. Not words in meetings with world leaders, but prayer in meetings with world leaders. We pray this will be done. Amen.



African Vision Malawi Coffee Morning Saturday 10th May

The children of Malawi are desperate to learn and just like children in the UK, they have dreams of becoming pilots, doctors, nurses, lawyers or even astronauts. The one thing they haven't got however is the resources that children here do have.

They badly need textbooks which cost £3 each. Yes just £3. Doesn't sound much, does it? But it could change a child's life. Our staff in Malawi estimate that we need 390 textbooks. Please support this excellent cause by coming to our African Vision Malawi 'Textbooks for Kids' coffee morning on Saturday 10th May from 10 - 12. Thank you.

Gaynor Cook



On behalf of everyone involved in supporting Ukraine, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone at Lillington Parish Church, St. Mary Magdalene's for organising a coffee morning. Thanks to your efforts and the generosity of those who attended, an incredible £1074.21 was raised to provide much needed aid.

Your kindness and dedication truly make a difference, and we deeply appreciate the time and effort you put into making this event such a success. It is inspiring to see a community come together in support of those in need. Once again, thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Dawid Kozlowski The Polish Centre



- Sat 10th May 10-12 St MM's Coffee Morning for African Vision Malawi
- Sat 14th June 10-1 St MM's Coffee Morning plus 13 Vicarage Rd Open Garden
- Sat 21st June 1-4 30 Cromer Rd and 110 Valley Road Open Gardens



Mosaic for Southorn Court



On the 8th of March, visitors to the St MM 'Love Lillington' Coffee morning had a chance to expand their artistic horizons and contribute to a mural and mosaic design planned for Southorn Court, Lillington. Organised by Lorella Medeci of Arty Folks, the mural is a community project that aims to involve residents

from all parts of Lillington. Arty Folks were instrumental in helping to set up the Sunflower project last year and both projects enable local groups and individuals to be creative and get involved in improving their local environment.

I designed the mural which features birds, butterflies, bees and flowers. The St MM mosaics joined many others made by children and staff at the Youth Centre; Fourways care home residents; Lillington Makers (an arts group based at the library); local churches and more.





All the comments were very positive: all said it brightened their day to see the design develop and were keen to see the end result. On Saturday 29th of March a party was held to celebrate the project. This coincided with the work of ARC (Achieving Results in the Community) who are helping residents to improve the unloved (and very windy) green spaces next to the flats.

We were blessed with clear blue skies with which to see the partial eclipse of the sun. It was really satisfying to see so many of those who had added a piece to the mural come along, show their friends and families and celebrate the occasion. There was a lovely hubbub of conversation, live music, picnicking and the planting of sunflower seeds ready for the next Lillington community event: '10,000 Sunflowers 2025.' Watch this space!

David Snatt



Southwell Minster - again!

The Yarn Café visited Southwell Minster on Tuesday 8th April. Although Southwell is lovely, it's not necessarily the reason we went there for the second time. We had heard (from Gaynor Cook) about a touring exhibition called

sts of 3 themes:

'Threads through the Bible' which consists of 3 themes:

'The Creation'; 'The Cross' and 'Revelation'.

In total there are 44 panels, each approximately 10 foot tall and 10 foot wide. They are made of silk and stitched in intricate patterns using quilting and applique techniques. Tapestries may not be everyone's cup of tea, but there are are many things to admire about these pieces: they are visually stunning – each panel a work of art in

Look closely and you can see all sorts of stitching techniques – over 25 million stitches in total! They tell a story. I have chosen some of my favourites here and I am sure my photos don't do them justice – but try to imagine them as huge works of art!

itself.

I am writing this article during Holy Week and cannot help but feel moved by this picture of Jesus on the cross – a stark comparison with the Last Supper on the right.





We had some problems with approving a driver for the minibus but with thanks to Gill Friar - a newbie to the Yarn Café - we were still able to get there and back.

We are planning another trip in the Autumn – do watch out as you don't need to come to Yarn Café to join us. However, you are more than welcome to drop into the Yarn Café on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 2-4pm.

Carol Innes



14TH JUNE 10-1 AT 13 VICARAGE ROAD 21ST JUNE 1-4 AT 30 CROMER RD AND 110 VALLEY ROAD



COFFEE MORNING PLUS CRAFTS

Raising money for

African Vision Malawi

'Textbooks for Kids' Appeal

SATURDAY 10TH MAY 10 - 12

St Mary Magdalene's Vicarage Road CV32 7RH

JOTTINGS ON LILLINGTON HISTORY

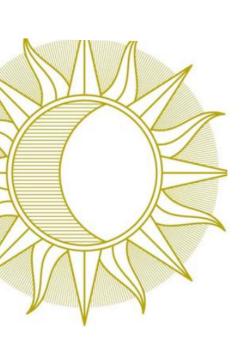


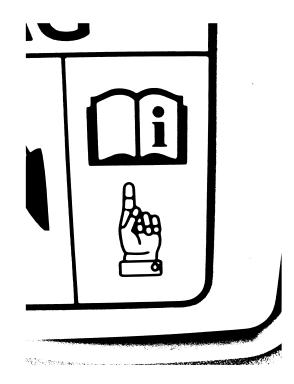
Traditionally of late many people seemed to assume that Lillington had no significant history, comprising a few pre-war and mainly postwar houses, as just a suburb of Leamington. In 2009 a few interested people thought that it should have its own local history society and adopted the strapline "Lillington has a history too"; it has been surprising how much history has been unearthed. Meetings are now held on the first Friday of each month (except August) at St. Mary Magdalene's, when a good attendance is usually attracted. The meetings comprise talks - usually illustrated.

When the Gunpowder Plot was hatched, many of the plotters rode from Dunchurch to Warwick and in doing so passed through Lillington; it is also claimed by some that Oliver Cromwell camped in the village in 1642 just prior to the Battle of Edgehill. The most historic building is the Parish Church on whose site there has almost certainly been a place of worship for a thousand years. Its tower dates from 1480 when its tenor bell was installed, and it is likely that King Richard III was able to hear it across the fields on his many visits to Warwick Castle.



The village was a popular port of call for Victorian visitors to Leamington when they came to take the waters, since it was an easy walk through the countryside to see the Midland Oak, claimed to mark the centre of England, and the old church with its famous Miser's Grave in the churchyard. The gravestone is no longer easy to read since time has taken its toll on the inscription but traditionally it recalls Billy Treen, well known in the village for begging scraps. When he died, a goodly collection of gold coins was found in his half-timbered house which stood in Cubbington Road, where The Greenways now branches off. The inscription on the grave reads (or used to): "I poorly Liv'd and Poorly Dy'd. Poorly Bury'd, and no one Cry'd." When it was demolished in the late 1960's many people searched the remains of Billy Treen's home in the hope of finding more treasure, but nothing was found. It was said that the house was demolished without any trouble, but that it took a couple of weeks to deal with the pigsty - perhaps today the old house would have been preserved. For more information on the history of Lillington visit our website: lillingtonlocalhistory.org.uk





Psalm 8

What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory.
O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

hank yous...



Many thanks to Diana Taulbut for working on our AMAZING new sound system: now as balanced and nuanced as you might find in even the most beardy of musos' music bars! And of course for her sterling work making sure we are now proudly broadcasting our very alive worship online and indeed to anyone walking through our churchyard from 11.15 on a Sunday morning!



Thank yous...

Our lovely vicar William has been on sabbatical since January. Ever since then, our lovely Curate Cerys has been holding the fort! She has been: leading services; attending meetings; hosting home group; making visits and much much more.

Cerys, we really appreciate all the hard work you have and continue to put in. There has been so much for you to learn on the job and you have taken it all in your stride NO problem!

Well done and many thanks Cerys!





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

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	22/ 6 / 25 Deborah		Psalms
29 / 6 / 25	Ruth	31 / 8 / 25	Psalms

St Mary Magdelene Church Vicarage Road Lillington.





Psalms









Hello all,

My name is Phil and my mum is Jean who has been a member of the St Mary Magdalene's congregation for many, many years.

I work in the churchyard, helping the team keep the area clean and tidy and making the place a lovely, special place to visit. I retired last August from Warwickshire County Council, having spent 33 years managing financial transactional processes. I'm not one for sitting still for long and so last year I set up my gardening business, Mowst Garden Services. Like the weeds, this has grown quickly. I'm trying not to take on too much, but I did want to help out in the churchyard - giving back to a church that has been a big part of my mum's life. I do an hour a week on a Monday morning and an additional hour per customer that I get from advertising in the church magazine.

Gardening is hard work, but to work in such a peaceful, beautiful space cannot be considered a chore but a pleasure.

Phil McGaffin



April 2025 Walk

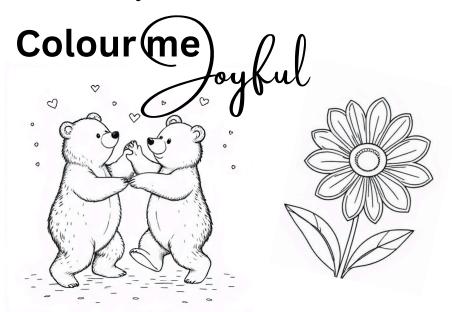
On Tuesday 8th April 2025, six of us set off from The Malt Shovel in Bubbenhall for a 3.5-mile walk, on good paths, round Bubbenhall Meadow and Woods. We looked down on one of Ryton Pools, viewing trees coming into leaf and a solitary swan far below, then proceeded into the Meadow, where we saw more pools, and cowslips starting to bloom. It can sometimes be muddy, but the ground was baked dry, with great ruts and cracks.



When we reached Bubbenhall Wood, we were too early for bluebells but the blackthorn blossom was glorious; primroses and celandines beside the path were colourful; the sun was shining and it was blissfully tranquil. We found a convenient seat for our mid-walk break, with time to relax and chat.

After retracing our steps through the Meadow, we walked along Paget's Lane back to Bubbenhall and The Malt Shovel. Here we were joined by two more members of the group (who were unable to do the walk on this occasion) and enjoyed a good lunch and more time for socialising.

Helen & Stanley Ireland



Hire our Octagon!



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Find out more



Registered charity number 1012788

From The Church Records				
Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals		
None	None	Ethel Gladys Prior Raymond Ward		

Sunday Worship				
4 May	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & online) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (in church)		
11 May	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All and shared lunch (in church)		
18 May	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)		
25 May	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All/ Sunday Club (in church)		

Weekday Services - Holy Communion in church/ online at 10am on 7, 14, 21, 28 May

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.

C R O S S M A L K

St Mary Magdalene, Lillington Parish Magazine

Advertising Rates 2024

Annual (11 issues):

1/4 page £120

½ page £150 Full page £180

Single month:

1/4 page £20

½ page £30

Full page £40

To find out more, please contact Mark at

crosstalk@lillingtonparishchurch.org





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CURATE: Cerys Smith 07813782512 curate@lillingtonparishchurch.org

GENERAL enquiries & office:

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office@lillingtonparishchurch.org

WARDENS:

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Sarah Boad

sarah@lillingtonparishchurch.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:

music@lillingtonparishchurch.org

LOVE LILLINGTON

Christine Butler 07963229756

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

Vicarage Rd, Lillington Leamington Spa CV32 7RH 01926 470449

