



CROSS TALK

The Good News

S t M a r y
M a g d a l e n e ' s

PARISH MAGAZINE



At the Heart of Your
Community

From the Vicar...

Dear friends



Can you believe we are at the beginning of another year? Where does all the time go? How often do we find ourselves lamenting the fact that we seem to have less and less time! It's a funny business time - there never seems to be enough of it and the older we get the faster it passes us by. When we were children time seemed to travel very slowly and summer holidays stretched on forever, yet here is another year and there are only 359 days until Christmas!

I watched a very interesting programme on the TV recently that posed the question 'What time is it?' The question, it seems, is much more complicated than you might imagine. The Earth spins at different speeds and so no two days last precisely 24 hours. What is more, Christians, Muslims and Jews all have different dates for what year it is now depending on the events in their religious history.

Then of course there was Einstein. His contribution to the debate suggested that time is relative and influenced by such factors as mass and the speed at which we are travelling. Indeed, according to the great man, time is different for each individual and is perceived and experienced differently by each of us.

Still with me? For those of you who didn't like physics at school, the last paragraph may have made time slow down considerably. Curiously there are events that seem to influence the movement of time. Ten minutes in the dentist's chair can make time seem to pass with tedious slowness whilst a favourite holiday seems to fly by.

Our experience of time, it seems, can be influenced by the attitude we bring to it. When the journey ahead is new and the sights and sounds unfamiliar, our awareness of all around can be heightened and our experience prolonged. When all is routine and the same as before, the 'been there, done that, got the T-shirt' attitude can lead to a sense of time passing too quickly. This is why time for a child is slower than for an adult. Our sense of the new and exciting is diminished.

If we are to prevent time passing us by then we need to look with the eyes of faith at the wonder that God gives us each day. One of the least read books of the Bible is the Book of Lamentations and like all unfamiliar paths there are amazing discoveries to be had along the way. In this book we read "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." If it sounds familiar, that is because most of our best loved hymns come direct from Scripture.

What a wonderful way to begin the day. To look for something new in the world that God has created, to discover new truths about the Creator and the depths of his love makes for the most exciting of journeys. With this approach to the new year I have no doubt that time will not pass us by. So may this coming year be for you characterised by an expectancy of finding something new about God and his love each and every day.

Happy New Year,

William

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COSY COFFEE
MORNING**



**ST MARY MAG'S
SAT 10TH JANUARY
10-12**

**WITH KIDS' CRAFTS, LOVELY CAKES,
HOT CHOC AND GREAT COFFEE ⁴**

The Circle of Life

We were talking in church recently about daily prayer life and if there was a particular place that we liked to go to for time of reflection and prayer. I would like to share with you my favourite place. I have a window at home that overlooks a really nice shaped tree and I do find myself frequently sitting and just looking at it as I ponder and spend times of mindfulness and quiet.

Through the seasons it constantly changes; it seems almost on a daily basis one can see the progress of re birth and growth as the new leaves unfold. And yet, the structure remains constant. I love to see the new, fresh green leaves start to appear. Sometimes after a springtime shower of rain, the sun shines. Then, the whole tree glistens as if sprinkled with a million diamonds; droplets fall to the ground in a kaleidoscope of colours as the sun's rays pass through them.

The days become warmer and the tree is once more laden with leaves. I always think it is quite a special green at the start of the summer – fresh; vibrant, full and beautiful. Summer has arrived and long hot days are enjoyed and hearts are lifted. The summer finally draws to close and the fresh green has now become a tad dull before the glorious gold colour takes hold. The days shorten and once again the winds start to take their toll and the leaves are gone for yet another year.

Stark shapes of dark branches reach skyward and sideways like open arms ready to give rest to passing birdlife. They remain a sturdy structure in the wintery gales. Their beauty is enhanced with glistening frosts and adorned in pure white snow that attaches like angel dust to the rugged bark - bright and fresh on a grey day until the branches dance in the wind and create the tree's own snow shower.

It is a simple process that we all see every year, but that tree embodies the very essence of life and faith in Jesus Christ. A sturdy structure with outstretched, welcoming arms to give rest to all in need. The beauty of new beginnings each spring. The fullness of life when boughs are rich with food and shelter for all types of insects. And finally, when the leaves wither and fall, they enrich the ground below, providing nourishment for the tree, so the circle of life goes on.

My belief is that we too, are a part of that everlasting cycle and if we put our faith in the firm foundation, body and outstretched arms of Jesus Christ then we too will be blessed with eternal life.

Jan Talbot

Covenant Service



Sunday 4th January
at 6.00pm

A special service where individuals and the Church renew their commitment (covenant) with God, centred on the Covenant Prayer ("I am no longer my own, but yours") to surrender their lives to God's will, affirming a deep, personal relationship with Him.
Do join us if you can.

UKRAINE EVENING REPORT

On Monday 13th October a few of us were invited to attend a presentation and film premiere at the Spa Centre Leamington. This was organized by Dawid Kozlowski and the evening was in the presence of many dignitaries and the Deputy Ambassador of Ukraine Eduard Fesko.

The evening began with a reception of networking and refreshments. Many representatives spoke; amongst these were Aid for Ukraine, which works closely with the Polish Centre and LKQ Euro Car Parts who assist with the delivery of Ambulances to Ukraine. In fact, 52 ambulances in total have been delivered so far, all filled with much needed items. We were told of the excitement when these ambulances arrive in Ukraine. A short film was shown about what it was like to drive an ambulance along the dirt tracks looking for a soldier who was injured. A soldier who had seen action in Ukraine was describing the film as it went along. After this a representative from the Royal Air Force gave their support.

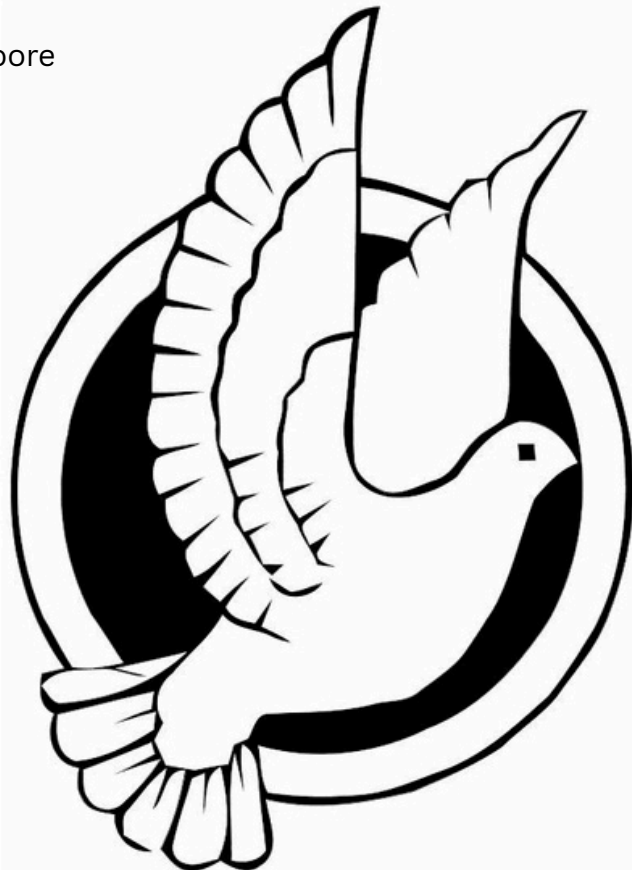
We also saw photographs of many orphaned children receiving their Christmas gifts which was heartwarming. A letter was read out from a Sister at the St Joseph's orphanage about how thankful they were for these gifts especially at Christmas and for chocolate eggs at Eastertime.



Deputy Ambassador of Ukraine Eduard Fesko gave an address and spoke of how much the support given in Leamington Spa makes such a difference to the people in Ukraine - just to know that we are with them and supporting them in many ways, and he wanted to give his sincere thanks to all who attended. The film “People” was then shown, which was made by a Warsaw film company. This was very realistic and showed the horrors of war and the effects it has on people of all ages.

It just remains to say thank you to all the members of our congregation and others who have donated items of medical supplies in our box in church. Your help is making a huge difference to the people of Ukraine. As the Deputy Ambassador said, “It gives us much comfort to know that we are not alone in fighting this war.”

Margaret Moore



LOVE LILLINGTON : REVERSE ADVENT

A letter from Miriam Bowen at the Lillington Branch of the Leamington & Warwick Foodbank

Once again we were blown away by the generosity of your church family! Thank you so much. It was lovely to be able to chat with the volunteers who delivered the bags on 9th December and tell them a bit about what we do.

We were busy and 12 bags went out immediately - the recipients were really grateful. One Mum with a family of 5 was quite tearful when she saw all the extra goodies.

A special thanks to the person who put the hats and socks in. I always think the Lord sends people to us at the right time and yesterday a man came in barefoot. We were able to give him some of the lovely thick socks, hat & gloves as well as food.

Our two regular guys who have been asking when the bags are coming in since early November turned up as well. They appreciated all the extras like the cranberry sauce, stuffing and gravy! They always have a Christmas meal together so I gave them one of the vouchers to get their turkey.

Every blessing
Miriam Bowen

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Our Amazing Reverse Advent Bags



LOVE LILLINGTON

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Walkers' Report

Back in November, ten of us met at the Octagon for our AGM. All walks for the year were allocated and it was decided not to walk in May, as it normally clashes with the Bluebell walk. After the AGM we then set off for Wolston to the Rose and Crown. After sorting our lunch orders, we set off through the village on our 3-mile walk. We encountered 3 stiles, which we try to keep away from. They were reasonable, but unfortunately one of our group had a fall. All was well and after they caught their breath, we set off again. Walking across the open fields, the views were lovely and on top of that we had 2 Kites flying above us for quite a long time. We stopped for our coffee break on to the lane heading back towards Wolston. Again the views were really good. We continued on towards the village and arrived back at the Pub for 12.30pm. The lunches were soon served and were excellent. Everyone agreed it had been a good morning. Especially as it did not rain.
Sandra Dear, walk leader



To join us on
our walks,
call Bob on
01926
315890

Walkers' Programme for 2026

22nd January tbc Annual Lunch

Sat 7th February Godfrey & Caroline Carr

Sat 7th March Ted & Sandra Dear

Sat 11th April Stan & Helen Ireland

Sat 6th June Bob Cooke

Sat 5th July Ted & Sandra Dear

Wed 6th August (6pm) Godfrey & Caroline Carr

Sat 5th September Bob Cooke

Sat 3rd October Ted & Sandra Dear

Sat 7th November Godfrey & Caroline Carr

This walk will be preceded by the AGM at 9.00 am

There will be no walk in January, May or December. All walks start from St Mary Magdalene Church at 9.30 am unless otherwise stated.



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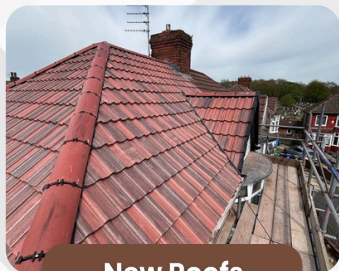
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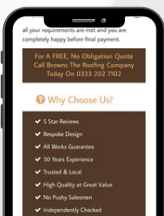
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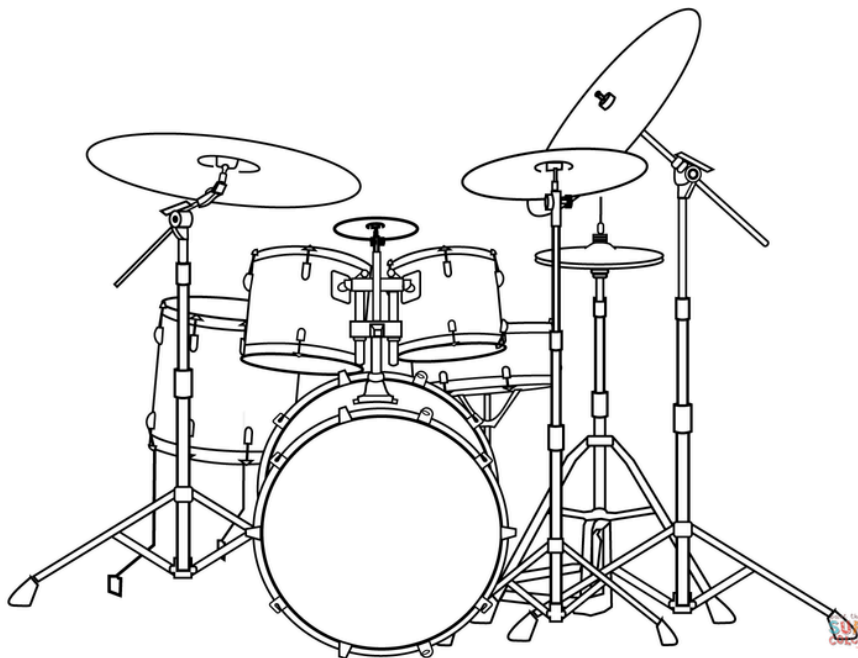
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Our Lovely Friend Kevin Stearn

Kev was a local chap who loved to help people and loved to play music. He sadly died in October. Kev was drummer in our church band 'Stargazers' and as such played at the 11.15 service. He was a lovely man who spent much of his time caring and doing favours for others. A local lad, Kev had been a choir boy at St Mary Mag's many moons ago.

For the last four years, Kev gigged around the Leamington area with friends, playing the drums (usually bongos) to raise money for charity; mostly Helping Hands and The Myton Hospices. As well as this, Kev was a keen volunteer, taking disabled folk on holidays and caring for elderly friends – he was very much a 'helping hand' in the local community. We remember Kev for his cheeky grin and the twinkle in his eye when he was playing – he loved being in the band. He will be missed.

Sara Snatt



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To find out more, please
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From The Church Records - October and November

Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
Scarlet-Rose Ann DRAPER 19/10/25		John Robert TUNNEY – 3/11/25 Kevin Paul Stearn – 10/11/25

Sunday Worship in January

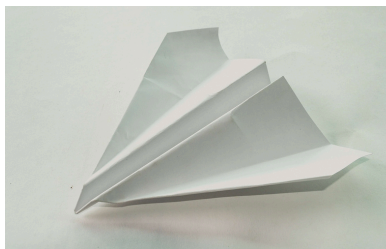
4 Jan Epiphany	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & online) All Age Communion (in church) Covenant Service (in church)
11 Jan Baptism of Christ	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)
18 Jan 2nd of Epiphany	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church) with Sunday Club and Community Lunch (in church)
25 Jan 3rd of Epiphany	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)

Weekday Services in January - Holy Communion in church/ online at 10am on Wednesday 7, 14 (Morning Prayer), 21 & 28 January

Services are streamed Live and are available afterwards on our website:
<https://www.lillingtonparishchurch.org>

For Funeral, Baptism and Wedding enquiries, please contact Revd.
 William Smith on 01926 316475 or email
vicar@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!

VICAR: William Smith 01926 316475

vicar@lillingtonparishchurch.org

CURATE: Cerys Smith 07813782512

curate@lillingtonparishchurch.org

GENERAL enquiries & office:

Wendy Driscoll 01926 470449

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: Hester Meacock

cfprojectworker@gmail.com

WARDENS:

Sarah Boad 07850 050238

sarah@lillingtonparishchurch.org

Isabella Moore 07801 108720

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

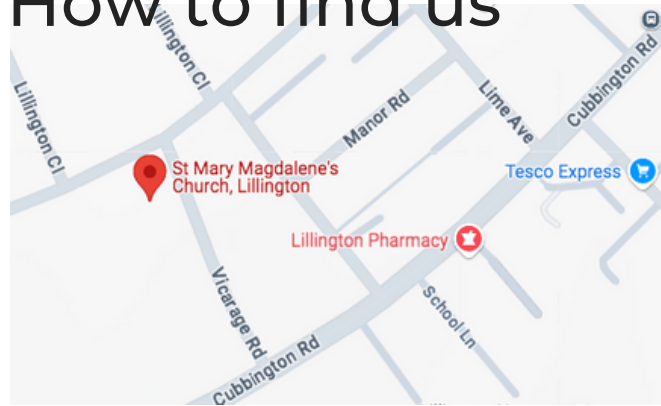
OR you can now join us via our website:

www.lillingtonparishchurch.org/streaming

or follow us on Twitch:

www.twitch.tv/lillington_parish_church

How to find us



Vicarage Rd, Lillington
Leamington Spa CV32 7RH
01926 470449