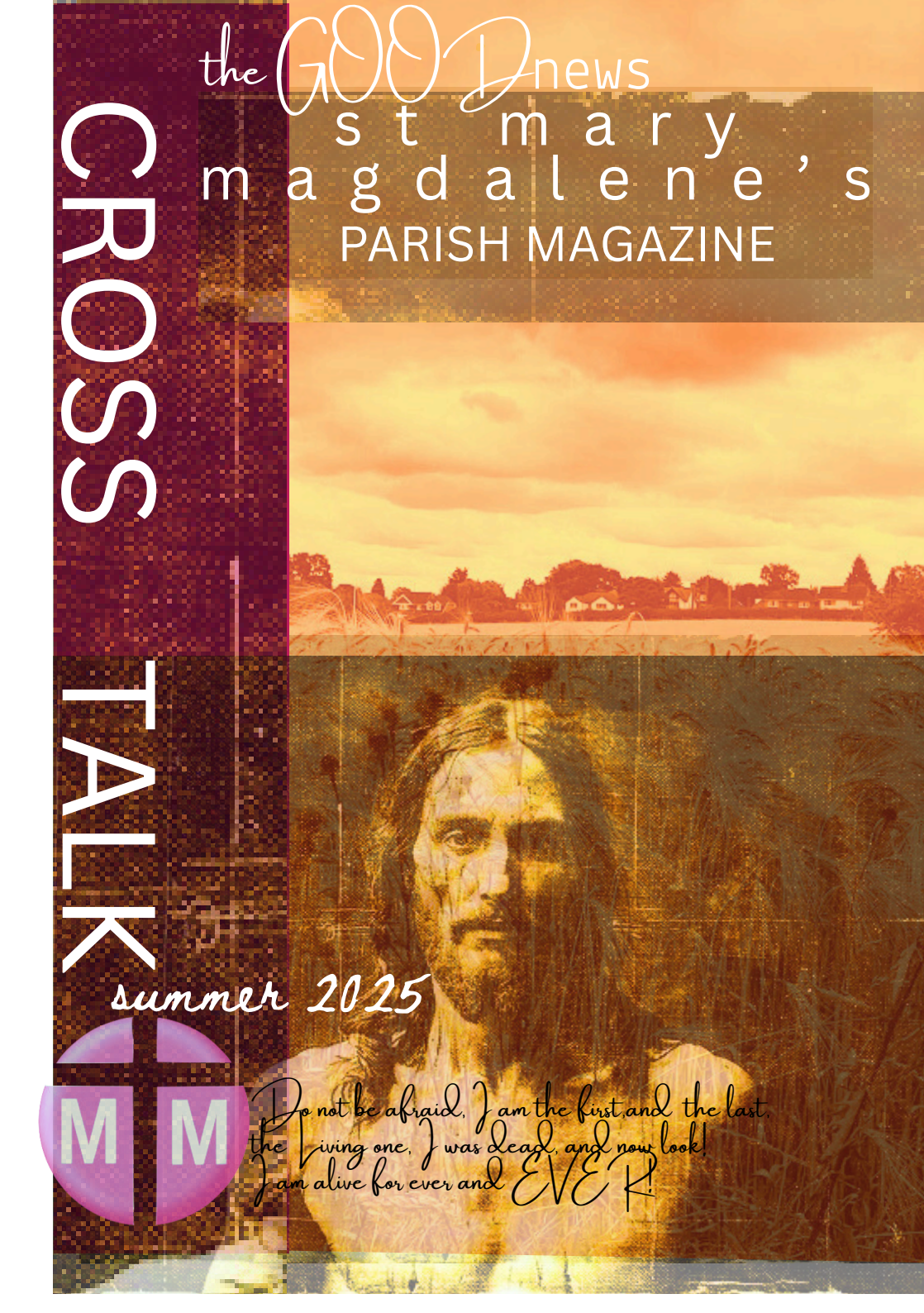
the GOOD news

st mary magdalene's PARISH MAGAZINE

CROSS TALK

summer 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

As I write this article, missiles are falling in Iran fired by Israel. Missiles are falling in Israel fired by Iran. In Ukraine there are daily drone attacks and Russians too are feeling the impact of the war spreading to their own towns and cities. The advice from the Leader of the free world is to 'let them fight it out'. This may perhaps go some way to explain why in the US last year there were over 40,000 gun related deaths of which 488 were classed as 'mass shootings' in which 4 or more people were killed!

The news of violence and conflict seems overwhelming at times and one is tempted to switch off the radio, disconnect the TV and ignore the news feeds that give us this unrelenting diet of hatred and bloodshed. Yet to walk away, to turn aside or to bury our heads feels irresponsible too.

The Irish philosopher and statesman Edmund Burke is quoted as saying: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing." If like me you like to think that you are on the side of good, what can we do when faced with the world's problems? We all want the bombs to stop falling, the children to stop dying and the divisions to begin to heal but most of us have no power to influence such complex and often distant problems.
Yet what we do have influence over, is our own inner world of thought and deed. We can refrain from using the words that hurt, or we can pick up the phone and contact that person we have not been speaking to. We can recognise the squabbles that are part of our daily lives and those areas close to home for which we need to seek forgiveness, and those wrongs that we ourselves need to move on from.



It is easy to become preoccupied with the sin of the world while ignoring our own shortcomings. Jesus talked about splinters and logs and suggested that we remove obstacles in our own lives before we sort out other people's problems. It's not that other people's problems are not important or do not require help; it is just that we can see better when we come from a place of integrity and truth.

The following observation is attributed to an unknown monk from the 12th Century:

"When I was a young man, I wanted to change the world.
I found it was difficult to change the world,
so, I tried to change my nation.
When I found I couldn't change the nation,
I began to focus on my town.
I couldn't change the town and as an older man,
I tried to change my family.
Now, as an old man, I realise the only thing I can change is myself,
and suddenly I realise that if long ago I had changed myself,
I could have made an impact on my family.
My family and I could have made an impact on our town.
Their impact could have changed the nation
and I could indeed have changed the world."

With prayers for peace at home and abroad,

William



Good News

Our dedicated Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th May **raised over £900** for **AFRICAN VISION MALAWI -** a charity set up by our very own **Gaynor Cook.** As you can see, Gaynor looks quite happy about it!

Thanks everyone who donated - it means that the charity can now buy **390** much needed **textbooks for Malawian school children!**

More Good News!

Back in April our lovely **Tricia Smith** hosted a Coffee Morning and ran the **London Marathon**, both in aid of **Hospice UK**.

The total raised from both was **£3200!** Tricia would like to thank all who gave to this worthy cause.

Sara Snatt







ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH LILLINGTON

SOCIAL EVENTS

Wednesday 2nd July 11am Coffee Morning - Church

Saturday 12th July 10am Coffee Morning - Octagon

Saturday 9th August 10am Coffee Morning - Octagon

Saturday 30th August 2pm Quiz with Afternoon Tea - Octagon

Saturday 13th September 10am Coffee Morning - Octagon

Saturday 11th October 10am Coffee Morning - Octagon

Sunday 12th October 9.30am & 11.15am Harvest Festival Service - Church

Wednesday 22nd October 11am Coffee Morning for MacMillan - Church

Saturday 8th November 10am Coffee Morning - Octagon
text

CONTACT US 01926 470449 facebook.com/LillingtonParishChurch

My Sundays



For many years, my Sunday has been a very busy day.
A few months after I retired, I started volunteering at Upton House: a National Trust property between Banbury and Stratford. I work in the gift shop and it's a really rewarding role. It can be full-on with a queue to serve at the till, or it can be quiet when new stock is unpacked and priced, the shelves quickly re-stocked or the plants we sell given a quick watering.

The property is open 363 days a year and the shop, along with the café, is the last part of the property to close. A "shift" is around 4 hours and I have always volunteered on Sunday afternoons. But when there is no morning volunteer signed up, I will dash away from church as quickly as I can and do a double shift. Sunday is the busiest day of the week at Upton House.

It's a great pleasure to meet and talk to visitors from all over the UK and all over the world as well.

We serve customers in the shop; direct them to other locations on the property; get first aid help if needed and generally assist in any way we can. Some visitors are just in need of a friendly face and the opportunity to chat. When the money is counted and the lights turned out at the end of the day, I am always a bit tired but leave with a sense of fulfilment. I have made some wonderful friends - both volunteers and staff members - during the 14 years I have volunteered at Upton House.

When I was still working, I also volunteered with The Samaritans for some 14 years. I was chairman of the Coventry branch for a while and also worked on recruitment and training of new volunteers. Again, it tended to be Sundays for me because it was difficult to fit in volunteering during the working week. My late husband was also a Samaritan volunteer. We found it satisfying work and we felt we had helped (in a very small way) people who needed to talk about their troubles.

Yes, Sundays are my busy day, but they are often the best day of my week. I start with the calm and introspection of a church service and finish with sore feet and a truly satisfied feeling of doing something both worthwhile and fun with the rest of my day. And maybe a little glass of wine when I get home with my feet up.

Please do come and visit us at Upton House any time – Sundays included!

Cynthia Bayliss



HERE AT ST MARY MAG'S

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Church Reordering Update

In early 2023, William approached me to seek assistance with the re-ordering of the Church. As I was due to retire in September of that year, I was pleased to support this important initiative. Little did I know how long it would take to progress the project, the primary aim of which is to transform the church into a more accessible and community-oriented space, while preserving its spiritual significance and heritage.

The initial brief was for me to project manage the removal of the existing pews and their replacement with comfortable chairs to allow greater flexibility in how the space is used and to encourage broader community use beyond regular worship. Part of the plan is to use stackable chairs in the north and south aisles which can be used when required. My initial assessment was that this should be relatively straight forward - how wrong I was!

In preparation a committee was formed which included William, Cerys, Sally Druce, John Butler and, latterly, Sarah Boad. We visited churches in Wolston and William's former parish in Stoke, both of which had successfully undergone similar transformations. These visits provided valuable insight and affirmed the benefits of the proposed changes.



Drawing by William: what our church will look like with its new ramp

Discussions then moved on to other areas where we could improve the Church including:

- The provision of a disabled ramp to the south porch
- Restoring the font and relocating it to the north aisle in line with the main door
- Repairing and cleaning the parquet flooring
- Boxing in the central heating pipes
- Creating a storage area and a wooden disabled ramp at the rear of the north aisle
- Creating a servery at the rear of the south aisle
- Repairing and re-decorating the walls of the Church
- The provision of a new heating system
- Renovation of the Octagon to include a better kitchen and improved toilets

We decided to start with the disabled ramp to the south porch as we considered that this would demonstrate a firm commitment to the project as a whole. We engaged Oliver Architecture, a firm with specialist experience in ecclesiastical projects, and what followed was an extensive and, at times, challenging process to obtain the necessary permissions. The first job was to obtain a faculty, which involved multiple consultations with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and their specialist architects. Our initial application was returned several times for revisions before final approval was granted. We subsequently applied for and received Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent, which were approved with minimal conditions. Building Regulation Approval has just been granted!

A specialist contractor has been appointed to undertake the construction work which is scheduled to begin on 1 September 2025 and is expected to take approximately 7 weeks. Whilst the work takes place, the northwest door to the Church will be used as the main access and a wooden ramp constructed to allow disabled access.

The removal of pews is an ongoing element of the project. Many will have noticed that the vestibule at the rear of the church has already been dismantled to provide space for storing the new chairs. These chairs will be used during special services and community events, such as concerts.

A faculty application has been submitted to the DAC for the removal of the pews and their replacement with chairs, and we are currently awaiting a decision. The wooden pews will be repurposed to create new panelling around the storage area and the wooden ramp. Surplus pews will be sold for the best possible price.

In tandem with this work, we also plan to restore and relocate the font, ensuring it is visible from the southern entrance. The font will be returned to its original condition as part of our ongoing effort to preserve the church's heritage. All of this costs money - lots of money, and to source finance and grants for the various elements of the project we have engaged professional fundraisers to provide a feasibility study which has just arrived. Once this has been considered the work will be prioritized. The re-ordering project represents an important step in the evolution of the church. It is our hope that these changes will help the church become a welcoming and versatile space for all members of the community to use and enjoy.

We are grateful for the support and patience of the congregation during this period of transition. Further updates will be provided as the project progresses. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

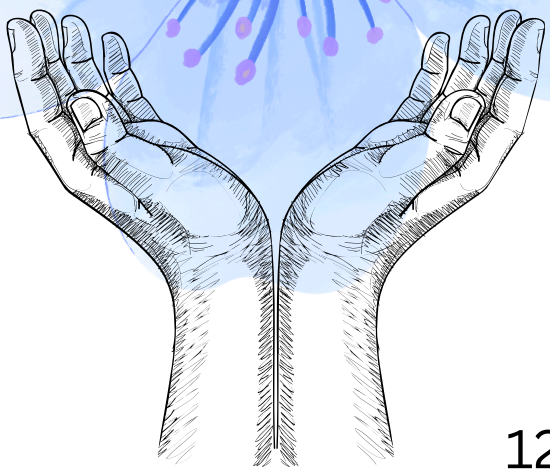
NICK BUTTON

MUSIC



Song: When peace like a river
Lyric: Horatio Gates Spafford
Music: P.P Bliss

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul.
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.
My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh, my soul.
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul.
And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll.
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
Oh it is well, it is well with my soul
It is well with my soul.



The genesis of the great hymn "When Peace, Like a River" is deeply intertwined with the life of Horatio Gates Spafford and the tragic turn of events that like that of Job, threatened many areas of his life. Born in Chicago, Spafford was a man of faith and a successful lawyer with a promising future. However, his life was dramatically altered by a series of devastating events.

The Great Chicago Fire (1871): The fire, which destroyed much of Chicago, also significantly impacted Spafford's financial security, reducing his property investments to ashes.

The Loss of his Daughters (1873): In an attempt to provide his family with a much-needed vacation, Spafford sent his wife and four daughters on the SS Ville du Havre to England. Tragically, the ship collided with another vessel and sank rapidly, resulting in the loss of his daughters and over 200 other lives. Only Anna, his wife, survived.

Writing the Hymn: As Spafford sailed to meet his wife in England, he was profoundly moved by the tragedy and the death of his daughters. He wrote the words to the hymn as the ship passed the location of the shipwreck, finding solace in his faith and the assurance that it was well with his soul, even in the face of such immense loss.

The Hymn's Impact: The hymn "It Is Well with My Soul," which includes the verse "When Peace, Like a River," became a source of comfort and inspiration for many, resonating with those who have experienced loss and hardship. It is still sung in churches around the world, (and indeed at St MM's) and is a beautiful, timeless reminder that God's power and peace can inhabit us and help us to overcome the most tragic adversity.



Patronal Festival

Sunday 20th July 2025

Please join us as we celebrate our
Patronal Saint Mary Magdalene.
She has an amazing story,
and we are part of this too.

Services at 9.30am and 11.15am



Pilgrimage on the Camino Santiago de Compostela

‘**Pilgrimage’ is** a term used to describe a journey, often undertaken by foot, to a particular destination or place of worship. It can lead to personal transformation (or just a lot of blisters!) before returning to normal life. The Camino de Santiago (or Way of St James) is a network of pilgrimage routes from mediaeval times, mainly across France, Portugal and Spain leading to the Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain.

Mike and I decided to become pilgrims for a week in May. To get your pilgrimage certificate, you must walk a minimum of 100k. So we chose a route through northern Spain from the Portuguese border. In one of the small wayside chapels, we found a tract with some challenging questions. So, join us now as we walk the Camino with five questions to focus our thoughts...

The pilgrims’ way is easy to follow; clearly marked with a yellow arrow. The tract’s ‘yellow arrow’ question was: what arrows do you follow? Who or what points the way? I’d decided to memorise some verses from Psalm 23 as I walked. One verse which stuck with me was Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. In the tumult of life, He is enough; He is my all.

Naturally, I got some blisters which hurt a lot. I covered them with blister dressings so I was still able to enjoy the beautiful scenery we walked through. It was good to walk slowly and appreciate things I'd normally rush past and miss. 'Wounds' question: do you have life wounds that you need to deal with? Who can you talk to about these?

My sore feet were considerably helped by walking poles. On our final day in sweltering heat, I hit the 'wall', but my fellow pilgrims encouraged me to rest, drink and eat. Duly restored we walked into Santiago together; my walking poles a reminder that we all need a little help sometimes. 'Walking pole' question: who are the people who serve as "walking poles" in your life journey?

The symbol of the Camino is a scallop shell – we each tied one of these to our backpacks symbolising that we were pilgrims. A pilgrim moves on each day and stays in a different bed every night. We stayed in a mixture of apartments and simple hotels which we'd booked in advance. We even spent one night in a pilgrims' hostel but the 'snoring symphony' was so grim we didn't repeat it. We enjoyed good regional food at the end of every day and a glass or two of wine.

Arriving in Santiago we attended the pilgrims' mass at the cathedral, sitting on the floor as there were so many people there. It was so moving to share the peace with people around us from all over the world. And after the service we even met up with our very own Pat Poulson from St Mary Mag's. Pat and her daughter had been on another pilgrimage, by coach, and we had all ended at the same service.



From above, the scallop shell looks like a hand – a symbol of the saving works Jesus did for humankind: serving; loving; sacrificing; redeeming. So our final 'shell' question: how are you helping others,and what steps do you need
to take to be a true pilgrim in life?

Tract: What Comes After The Camino? Published by Hope House Galicia.

Rachel Duff

You never know who you will meet along the way! From L- R: Mike and Rachel Duff; Pat and Michelle Poulson



A Moving Encounter

That same day, Pat met 2 Ukrainian girls in Pilgrims' Square. When she told Veronika and Oksana about how we at St MM's support Ukraine, by collecting medical supplies which are transported to the front, it became a very emotional encounter, with pilgrims from around the world moved to tears.

The pilgrimage was a moving personal experience for Pat, and this meeting really exemplifies how we at St MM's feel about the people of Ukraine:
'We stand by you in solidarity.
We are with you.'

Sara Snatt

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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
		Adrian John Pettifer Brenda Ames

Sunday Worship in July		
6 July Trinity 4	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & online) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (in church)
13 July Trinity 5	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All and shared lunch (in church)
20 July Mary Magdalene	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)
27 July Trinity 6	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All/ Sunday Club (in church)

Weekday Services in July and August - Holy Communion in church/ online at 10am on Wednesday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 July and 6, 13, 20, 27 August

Services are streamed live and are available afterwards on our website: www.lillingtonparishchurch.org
For Funeral, Baptism and Wedding enquiries, please contact Revd. William Smith via 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.

Sunday Worship in August		
3 August Trinity 7	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online)
10 August Trinity 8	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online)
17 August Trinity 9	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online)
24 August Trinity 10	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online)
31 August Trinity 11	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online)





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crosstalk@lillingtonparishchurch.org

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Church Services

Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion Service

(1 hour service with robed choir)

11.15am All Age Service

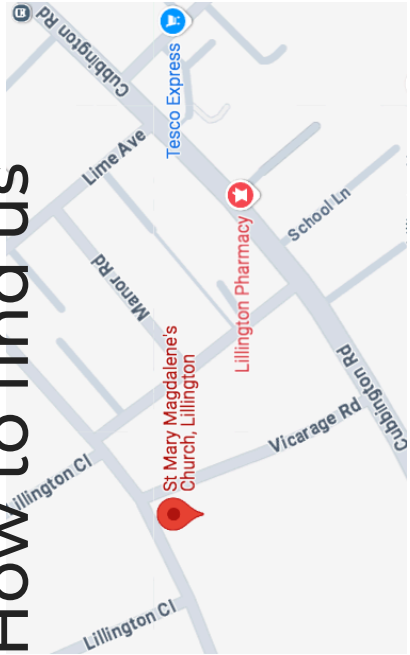
(40 minute service with children at its heart)

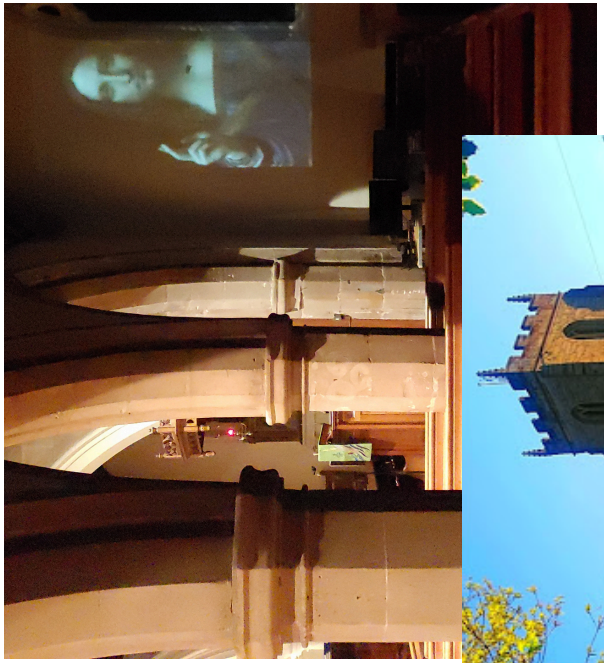
Wednesday

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

How to find us







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