St Mary Magdalene's

PARISH MAGAZINE

CROSS TALK



June 2026

Bring your pet to church for our Pets Service.
See page 4 for details...

From the Vicar...



Dear Friends,

Over the coming weeks, we will begin saying farewell to Cerys as she prepares to leave St Mary Magdalene's at the end of June and begin a new ministry as Ministry Area Leader in Merthyr Tydfil Ministry Area.

It hardly seems possible that three years have passed since Cerys first arrived among us as curate. Curacies are curious seasons in the life of a church. A curate comes to learn, to grow and to test their vocation in the realities of parish life, yet over time they become woven into the fabric of the community itself. That has certainly been true for us here in Lillington.

During her time with us, Cerys has shared in every aspect of parish life: leading worship; preaching; pastoral visiting; baptisms; funerals; schools work; community events and the countless quieter moments of ministry that often go unseen but matter deeply. Many people will have their own memories of conversations, encouragement, prayers and acts of kindness offered at just the right moment.

These past three years have also been years of significant change and renewal in the life of St Mary Magdalene's, and Cerys has walked with us through all of this with generosity, faithfulness and good humour. Alongside her gifts and abilities, it is perhaps her warmth, authenticity and grounded faith that people will remember most clearly.

Of course, the purpose of a curacy is not simply to stay, but to prepare someone for the next stage of ministry, and it is wonderful to see Cerys moving into a role of such responsibility and opportunity. While we shall be sorry to see her go, we also send her with our prayers, love and gratitude, trusting that the gifts she has shared among us will now bless many others.

We hope that the people of Merthyr Tydfil will come to value Cerys as much as we have, and we pray that this next chapter of ministry will be richly blessed.

With prayer and best wishes,

William



Reverend Cerys

Bring Your Pet to Church for a Special Pet Celebration Service



Sunday 12th July 11.15am

St Mary Magdalene's Vicarage Road Lillington

All are welcome to join us for this service to celebrate all God's creatures, great and small.

Announcement made at all services in the Merthyr Tydfil Ministry Area in the Diocese of Llandaff and in the Benefice of Lillington and Old Milverton in the Diocese of Coventry on Sunday 17th May 2026.

The Bishop of Llandaff, The Right Reverend Mary Stallard is delighted to announce the appointment of the Reverend Cerys Smith as Ministry Area Leader of the Merthyr Tydfil Ministry Area.

Cerys is currently the Assistant Curate in the Benefice of Lillington (St Mary Magdalene) and Old Milverton (St James) in the Diocese of Coventry.

We wish Cerys well in this new phase in her life and ministry. Please pray for her and for the respective Church communities as everyone concerned prepares for this change.

The Rev'd Cerys will begin her ministry in Merthyr at the end of July.

The Bishop of Llandaff's office
13th May 2026

Esgobaeth Llandaf
Diocese of Llandaff
Mae Ffydd Yn Cyfrif | Faith Matters

Join us for Cerys's Final Service Here at St Mary Mag's Sunday 28th June at 10.30am

(A joint service followed by special refreshments)



Cerys we will miss you...

BROWNS
THE ROOFING COMPANY

RELIABLE, HONEST ROOFERS FULLY INSURED
★★★★★



YOUR ROOFING EXPERTS

Welcome to Browns the Roofing Company. We are an experienced roofing company covering South Birmingham, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire & Worcestershire. ***If you are looking for a new roof or repairs to an existing roof,*** then please get in touch. We offer a wide range of services to the Warwickshire community.

THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS! CALL US ON 0333 202 7102

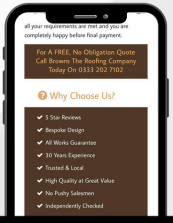

New Roofs


Emergency Repairs


Guttering

We cover all your roofing needs, from new installations and flat roofs to roof and chimney repairs. **With many years of experience and hundreds of satisfied customers, you can trust us.** Our work is backed by the Confederation of Roofing Contractors.

- ✓ Tiling & Slating
- ✓ New Roofs
- ✓ EPDM Flat Roofs
- ✓ Re Roofs
- ✓ UPVC Guttering
- ✓ Fascias & Soffits
- ✓ Ridge Tiles Repaired
- ✓ UPVC Dry Verge / Ridge
- ✓ Lead Flashing Repairs
- ✓ Gutter Cleaning
- ✓ Moss Removal
- ✓ Chimney Repair
- ✓ Flat Roofs



Simply scan to **visit us online**

SCAN ME

★★★★★ Delivering exceptional 5-star service

BROWNS
THE ROOFING COMPANY

CHAT WITH US ON WHATSAPP

Google Guaranteed ★★★★★ myjobquote myBuilder.com 5 Out Of 5 Star Rating

www.brownstheroofingcompany.co.uk

CONTACT US
FOR YOUR FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

Call: 0333 202 7102 **Mob:** 07771 709 114
Email: info@brownstheroofingcompany.co.uk

Join us for a

Coffee Morning

with Plant Sale

Great Coffee Kids' Crafts

Delicious Cakes

Saturday 13th June
10-12

Mary Magdalene's Church
Vicarage Road Lillington

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.



NO JOB TOO SMALL!

PHIL EDWARDS

HANDYMAN SERVICES

Whatever you need: fixing a dripping tap; shelves put up; gutters cleaning

philedwardsramg@gmail.com

'Phil has done a number of small jobs around my house over the last few weeks and been really helpful.' Yasmi

Give me a call!

01926 424485/07931812235



STAR CHURCH

11.15 SUNDAY FAMILY FOCUS

INCLUSIVE CELEBRATION

LIVE MUSIC

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

@St Mary Mag's

Come and Join Us for

A Summer Choral Evensong



Choir

Drinks and Nibbles

Sunday 5th July at 6pm

St Mary Magdalene's Church

Vicarage Road Lillington

SAVE THE DATE

CELEBRATION ORGAN RECITAL

WITH MICHAEL KING

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 7-00PM

PROGRAMME TO INCLUDE BACH, RHEINBERGER, WIDOR, LEFEBURE-WELY

At St Mary Magdalene's Church

Vicarage Road, Lillington



Celebrating 90 years since the installation of the organ by Rushworth and Dreaper on September 24th 1936

cheese and wine interval

A Trip to Lille



The next time you feel like a short and uncomplicated trip to Europe why not consider Lille? The fourth largest French city, it might not have the tourist draw of Paris but is still well worth visiting and in fact Lille Métropole Musée d'art moderne is currently hosting a well-received exhibition exploring the works of the abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky in collaboration with the Pompidou Centre in Paris. There are up to eight direct Eurostar trains daily from London St Pancras to Lille, travel time 80 minutes.

We travelled to Lille by Eurostar on September 10th 2025 which it turned out was a "Bloquons tout" (block everything) day in France featuring mass anti-Government demonstrations across the major cities. Once outside Lille Station we could hear shouting and chanting close by so hastily entered a nearby metro station. A few stops later on the excellent and driverless system, it was a short walk to our hotel in Rue Léon Gambetta. By then the noisy demonstrations had become louder and it was no surprise for us to find that the city centre where all the restaurants and cafés were had been cordoned off by the police. As our hotel didn't provide evening meals we bought rolls and fruit from a grocer's shop along the street and ate them in our hotel room whilst watching developments on TV. This probably made us appreciate our delicious café meals en plein air in the Grande Place du Général de Gaulle the following evenings even more.

On our way the next day to catch our tourist bus we passed some burnt bikes and benches from the night before but everything was now calm. Highlights of the bus tour included the birthplace of General de Gaulle at 9 Rue Princesse, the Belfry and the Old Stock Exchange. In the afternoon we enjoyed Lille Zoo. No elephants or big cats as it's a small city zoo but we thought it very attractively laid out and particularly liked the pelicans and gibbons – who live on their own island in a lake with an enormous tree house. The zoo is situated close to Lille's great Citidal, stiil an active military headquarters, and near to some beautiful riverside walks.

We had set aside our last day in Lille to visit the Palais des Beaux Arts. It's a very large building and houses one of the biggest collections of paintings, sculptures and decorative art and craft works in France after the Paris Louvre. It's always the antiquities departments of museums to which we are drawn and the one here did not disappoint. A medieval stone baptism font engraved with the figures of a woman and what appear to be a monkey and lion resonated with us as it was only a few months before that we had been at our grandson's baptism. A medieval carving of a woman by a table with two dogs underneath, one eating a bone, was sweetly simple. The item that made our spines tingle, because we were being confronted by a visible connection to an ancient civilisation, was a sarcophagus and mummy of an Egyptian cat dated 664 – 332 BC.

We didn't by any means visit everything we would have liked to in Lille including other museums and galleries. The French/Belgian border cuts through Lille's outer suburbs so it's possible to visit nearby historic towns in both countries.

Amanda Stevens



Bio-Blitz and Muddy Church at St James

On June 14th we are holding a joint Bio-Blitz and Muddy Church event in St James churchyard between 3.00 and 4.30pm. The Diocesan Bio-diversity team will be helping us to identify as much wildlife as possible in the churchyard.

Explorer Kits, suitable for all ages from the very young to the young and heart will be available and, as at all Muddy Church events, refreshments will be provided. There's no need to book but, if you know you are hoping to come along, it would be helpful if you could let Sue or Geoff known in advance to give us some idea of how many folk to plan for.

Sue 01926 735254/ suefairhurst0@gmail.com
Geoff 07585 336471/ geogeoff@live.co.uk

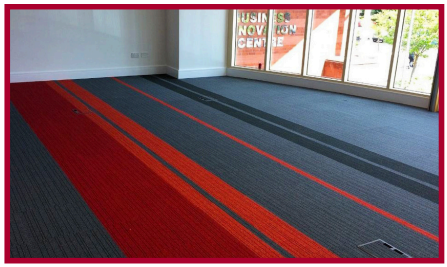
10% OFF WITH THIS ADVERT



ENQUIRE FOR GREAT PRICES

Hamilton Flooring

If you're thinking about upgrading your flooring, Hamilton Carpets & Flooring is here to help. Based in Warwick, we offer high quality flooring with first class service to transform your space.
Get in touch today to find the perfect fit for your home.



OUR SERVICES

- Carpets
- Luxury Vinyl
- Vinyl Flooring
- Laminates

WHY CHOOSE US?

<u>Mobile showroom for home selection</u> and with a combined 100+ years of experience, Hamilton Carpets & Flooring has been trusted by homeowners across Warwickshire & further afield for quality flooring and expert service. We pride ourselves on our craftsmanship, attention to detail and customer satisfaction.
Whether you're looking for carpets, luxury vinyl, vinyl and more, we'll help you find the perfect solution for your home.



01926 962770
hamiltonflooring.co.uk
hello@hamiltonflooring.co.uk

Unit 10 Trident Park, Poseidon Way, Warwickshire CV34 6SW



Girlguiding

3rd Leamington Guides

Do you know a girl aged 10–14 looking to try something new?
Guides is all about building confidence, learning new skills, and having fun!

Come and give it a try:
📍 Lillington
📅 Wednesday evenings
✉️ **3rdleamingtonguides@gmail.com**
Spaces available now – get in touch to find out more!

Join us for:
🌲 Outdoor adventures
🔥 Fire lighting
🎨 Crafts
🎲 Games & challenges
💬 Making new friends







Could Bell Ringing Appeal to you?

Ever wondered what happens up in the church bell tower?
We're looking for new bell ringers to join our team.
You might be surprised how enjoyable it is.

Fun & Friendship
A warm, sociable group with laughs, and occasional evenings out.

Learn a New Skill
Keep an ancient English tradition alive.

Mind & Body Exercise
A little staircase climbing, rope pulling, brain power and teamwork.

No Experience Needed
Any age from 10 upwards.

Something Different
More interesting than another evening in front of the TV.

Curious?

Come and watch us on a Tuesday practice night and see what it's all about. Contact the church office: 01926 470449
Give it a pull... you might love it.

St Mary Magdalene's Church Lillington



A NEW LUXURY CARE HOME
NOW OPEN

Oakley Grange has superior facilities for our residents to enjoy along with the very best care and support. As a brand new, purpose-built care home, it provides the very latest design innovations in a luxurious yet homely setting.

Become a Founder Member and benefit from fixed prices until March 2026*
Warwick is opening in July 2024 and we are proud to introduce our Founder Members' Offer, giving families and residents a fixed price for 20 months from the date of opening.

Founder Members' Offer terms and conditions* apply and are available upon request.

TOP 20 CARE HOME GROUP
carehome.co.uk
AWARD 2024

For more information or to book a tour of our stunning new care home call our friendly team today: 01926 953 507

At Oakley Grange, people will always come first

RESIDENTIAL CARE | DEMENTIA CARE | RESPITE CARE

Luxury Care Home in Warwick
Oakley Grange Care Home, Cox Gardens, Warwick CV34 7AT
www.cinnamoncc.com/oakleygrange Our What3Words location: **Ranked.Moved.Bath**

A Secondment to Kyiv – 1995/96

Some 30 years ago I had an email pop into my office inbox. It said that my firm, Coopers & Lybrand, now PricewaterhouseCoopers, was offering – for the very first time! – an overseas secondment for a support staffer such as me. Wow, how exciting! It looked very interesting though it was not going to be Rome, Paris or New York but Kyiv. I replied, registering interest, went home and told my husband about it. Go for it, he said - if you don't, you will always regret it. And I got the job! It would be six months in Kyiv with a furnished flat, all my travel, a flight for my husband to have one visit and an allowance in the local currency. I got my necessary inoculations and within a week I was on a flight to Kyiv. Scared? You bet! Excited? Very much so! On arrival, August in Kyiv was hot, humid and there were some glorious thunderstorms but my first day in the office was wonderful, meeting friendly and warm people anxious to put me at my ease. Winter came in October when the temperatures plunged, snow began and -30º C was not uncommon.

Most of the support staff were Ukrainian. My role was to introduce and imbed UK standard administration practices to bring the office within the guidelines set by the London head office. I didn't have a word of Ukrainian or Russian (the "business" language) but the main language spoken in the office was English and the Ukrainian staff preferred that. I did manage to learn enough to do my shopping at the Bessarabskyi Market – a large covered market with many stalls in Kyiv city centre.



Cynthia's business card

The student staff were training to be CMAs (Certified Management Accountants) - and I felt great pleasure in helping with the administration of exams, paperwork, etc. We were training accountants, tax specialists, consultants, business entrepreneurs, politicians and diplomats of the future.

And now? I am heartbroken at what has happened in Kyiv. The office closed a number of years ago; the staff remaining have scattered and some have joined others who had already immigrated to the USA, Canada, Australia, the UK, EU and elsewhere. I have lost touch with most of them but maintained contact with a few in Vienna and Madrid as well as London. A few of the men who settled in London went back to enlist in the army and join the fight against the Russians. A few are dead; a few fight on in one way or the other. And they live in truly dreadful conditions.

I have been so pleased to support the efforts made in our church to help with the ambulances and medical items. An old friend from those days who was one of the British senior managers asked me to send pictures for forwarding to Kyiv so that our old Ukrainian friends can know they are NOT forgotten and that we do what we can to help. They are a proud, warm and kind people. I felt so welcome in our office there, always safe and always the recipient of help when I needed it. It was a wonderful experience I will never forget.

Slava Ukraini! Cynthia Bayliss



Cynthia's colleagues Alla and Vitya at the office Christmas party

Generations of Care

R.Locke & Son

Independent Family Funeral Directors – Est 1853

Brailes - Shipston-on-Stour - Wellesbourne - Kineton

Pre-paid Funeral Plans

01789 840 744

Direct Cremation

For more information about our services, to view funeral announcements and online donations please visit

www.rlockeandson.co.uk

As a family owned business serving our local area we take great pride in offering a dedicated and compassionate service. We are happy to visit you in your own home or you are welcome to come to our offices.

MEMBER SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

GOLDEN CHARTER FUNERAL PLANS



MOWST GARDEN SERVICES

For general garden maintenance in the Leamington & Warwick area, contact Mowst Garden Services.
Mowing, strimming, hedge cutting, weeding, leaf clearance, garden tidy ups etc
Radford Semele based. Please get in touch for quotes, bookings or to discuss any garden issues you may have:

Mobile 07835 995161- Email pgaff99@gmail.com

Competitive rates, reliable and quality service.

Save the Date...

Saturday 5th September 2026

Church Day In

We look forward to having a whole church day together to receive teaching, socialise and spend time with one another across the 3 services.

We would love for you to come. There will be a limit to places, but we want as many people as possible to attend therefore please contact Hester (event coordinating) to reserve your place: cfprojectworker@gmail.com

There will be a small charge required to cover catering, but this will be kept as minimal as possible and more information will be provided ASAP; support for those who cannot fund themselves is available.



Mayor Sarah Boad

Our lovely church warden Sarah Boad has been elected Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa, having received the mayoral chain during the Town Council's Annual Meeting on Thursday 14 May. Speaking following her appointment, Sarah said: 'Leamington Spa is a wonderful place to live and I am very proud to represent the residents of Lillington on the Town Council. I am looking forward to visiting local organisations and learning more about the important work they do within our community.' Congratulations Sarah!

Sara Snatt



Here is Sarah with William, her Chaplain

WCS CARE

Every day well lived

Live life the way you want to

At Four Ways care home, you can carry on doing the things you enjoy and decide what your day looks like.

Need your hair or nails done? Pop into our salon. Want coffee and cakes? Visit the café.

Do you like getting out and about? Join us on regular, local Memory Maker minibus trips. Or you can enjoy life in the home, with weekly activities, music with our Community Musicians, and celebrations for special occasions.

Want to find out more?





Call in anytime:

Four Ways, Mason Avenue, Lillington, Leamington Spa, CV32 7PE



Our Trusted Advisor, Josephine, is happy to answer your questions about living in a care home, whether that's a WCS care home or one outside our group better suited to your needs.

Call us on 01926 421 309 and 'Press 1' to speak to Josephine.

Find out more

Registered charity no. 1012788

wcs-care.co.uk **wcscare** **wcs_care**

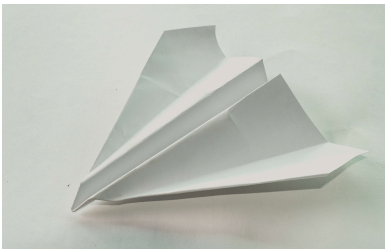
From The Church Records – April		
Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals & Memorial Services
Josiah Bryce Zacarias		

Sunday Worship in June		
7th June – 1st after Trinity	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & online) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (in church)
14th June – 2nd after Trinity	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) **Sunday Club with shared lunch** (in church)
21st June - 3rd after Trinity	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)
28th June – 4th after Trinity	10.30am	Holy Communion in church & online **(A Joint Service with Refreshments)**

Weekday Services in June - Holy Communion in church & online at 10am on Wednesday 3, 10, 17 & 24 June

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
office@lillingtonparishchurch.org
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

facebook.com/LillingtonParishChurch



Church Services

Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion Service

(1 hour service with robed choir)

11.15am All Age Service

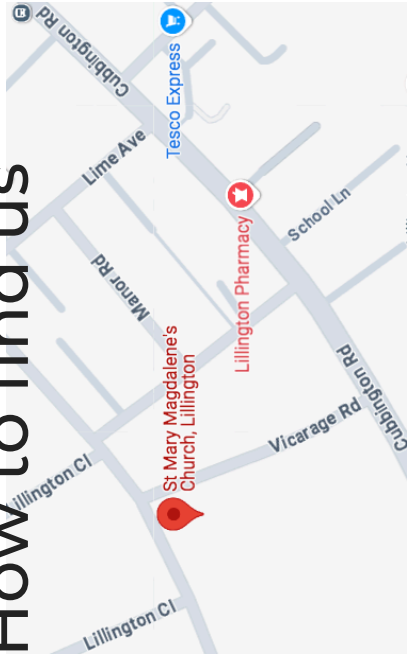
(40 minute service with children at its heart)

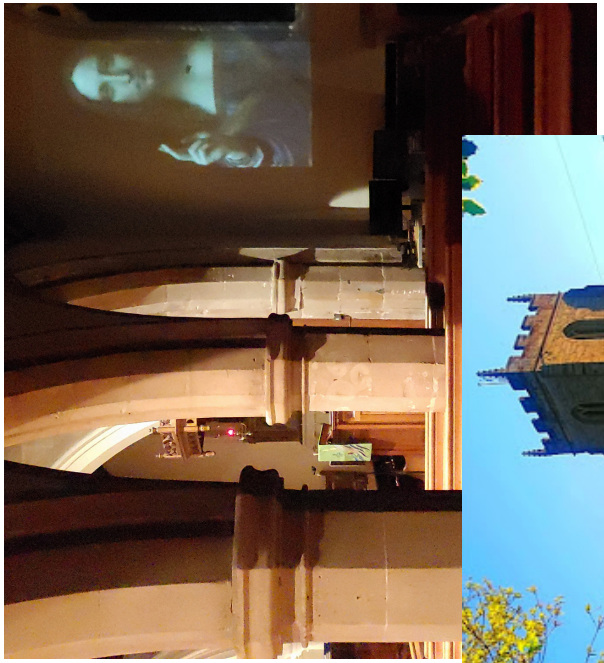
Wednesday

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