



St Mary magdalene's PARISH MAGAZINE

CROSSTALK



tonight we're going to party like it's 1399

MUSICA MEDIEVALIS AT ST MARYMAG'S
(see Pages 12-13)

May 2026

From the Vicar...



Dear Friends,

May is a month that feels full of promise. The trees that stood bare through winter are clothed once more in green. Gardens begin to stir with colour. Birds seem to sing earlier and louder. The evenings stretch out, and the world feels somehow lighter. After the long greys of winter, creation itself seems to whisper that life can begin again.

Christians have always seen in spring something deeper than a change in the weather. We see a sign of the God who brings life out of death, hope out of disappointment, and new beginnings out of what seemed finished. Easter is not simply a day we celebrated a few weeks ago. It is a truth to be lived. The risen Christ still meets people in ordinary places and says, “Do not be afraid. I am with you.”



All set up for
our Good
Friday service

That message matters in our own times. Many people carry worries about health, family, finances, the state of the world, or the future itself. It is easy to feel worn down by troubling headlines and personal pressures. Yet the Christian faith has never depended on circumstances being easy. It is rooted in the conviction that even when stones seem firmly in place, God can still roll them away.

Here at St Mary Magdalene's, we too are living through a season of change and renewal. Our building is entering a new chapter, creating fresh possibilities for worship, welcome, community and service. Change can sometimes feel unsettling, but it can also be the doorway to new life.

Perhaps that is true for us personally as well. May invites us to ask: what might God be renewing in me? What small seed of hope needs planting? What old burden might be laid down?

God is always at work, often quietly, often patiently, often in ways we do not first notice. The good news of Easter is this: he is not finished with his world, his church, or with us.

With every blessing,

William



Passover meal in church

SALT OF THE EARTH

I remember as a very small child, seeing my grandmother buy blocks of salt wrapped in paper. She then had to carefully shave off the salt with what seemed like a huge knife and then put it in the crock 'salt jar' ready for use in the kitchen.

So, when I was going to visit Poland some time ago, I was surprised when someone said to me that I really must visit the salt mine whilst I was there. I really couldn't imagine what it would be like: in my mind's eye it would be passages with walls of salt and a souvenir shop at the end. I couldn't have been more wrong.

The mine in Wieliczka has been there since the Middle Ages and it is now a World Heritage Site to preserve it and allow us to visualise what it was like as a working mine. We began the descent of 800 steps, stopping at various levels to explore. We could see the shafts where the miners would have to lower themselves to get to their area of work. There are endless channels, corridors and tracks spread over nine levels. There were life sized models of people and the donkeys that were kept down there to pull the trucks ready for unloading on the surface.

We were surrounded by the noises that would have been the sounds as they worked: chipping of picks; the clanging of chains as wheels were turned to take yet another pile of salt out of the mine. Hard, hard work and with very little lighting. There was even a lake of salt water on one level, enhanced today by atmospheric lighting and soft classical music. The backdrop and ceiling of the lake shone and glistened as the lights caught the salt that surrounded us.

Eventually we had reached the bottom of the mine, 327 metres below ground level, but the biggest surprise was yet to come. As I entered the final level, there in front of me was a cathedral in salt. Christ on the cross was right at my side and spread in front of me was a magnificent sight of the altar; carvings on the walls depicting the Last Supper, the Virgin Mary and more. Everything was carved and made from salt - even the floor and the chandeliers above us.

Although this mine has been respectfully added to with integrity so that people from around the world can see it, I felt very moved that this was where the miners came, in the dim light, damp conditions and coldness. This was a sanctuary where they came to pray for safety in the arduous tasks they had to do. The testament to faith in the risen Christ really is found in the most unexpected places. God is omnipresent, from the depths of the earth to the highest mountain and beyond. His love embraces the whole of His creation. **Jan Talbot**



Foodbank Thanks

Every week our parishioners donate food items
for local people.



Thank you!

StMaryMagdalene

for continuing to support Warwick District Foodbank. Your continuing support
makes a big difference to our local community.

Miriam Bowen Apr 26
Warwick District Foodbank

Registered charity number 1160705. Registered in England and Wales.

Donating food items makes a real difference to a lot
of local people. To donate, please leave items in
front of the Vicarage in the box by the door.



Love Lillington 10th Anniversary Concert



Saturday 23rd May

7.30pm

£15 ADULTS
£8 UNDER 18

WITH
CHEESE &
WINE



ST MARY MAGDALENE'S
VICARAGE RD LILLINGTON
CV32 7RH

An Evening of Choral Classics with
Espressivo and
St Mary Magdalene's Singers

Tickets from Christine Butler
j.butler1christine@gmail.com 07963 229756



LOVE LILLINGTON
Loving our community with
Prayer • Money • Action

Your Bell Tower Needs Ringers

You Perhaps?

For several years we have been lucky to have a thriving and loyal team of bell ringers, ringing the call to worship every Sunday and for weddings and special events. Seemingly, all of a sudden, four ringers have left the band due to family commitments and health issues.

We are so fortunate to have eight bells at Lillington. The augmentation of the peal from three to eight in 1927 is something we shall be returning to and celebrating next year. However, as things stand, you might not hear eight bells rung very often unless you would like to join us.

The first step might be to contact me and come and see what the ringing entails. We can explain things best on a Tuesday evening at our practices, starting at 7.30 p.m.

Ringing is a skill that is learnt with practice, but it does not require great physical strength or musical ability. Our bells are relatively light, and therefore beginners can be men, women or children from their teens as long as they can climb the spiral staircase – thirty steps. Do please come and see for yourself if you are at all tempted, or just interested in what we do. We need you and your support!

Barbara Howes
Team Captain

07973 199692



Inside the
ringing room

BROWNS

THE ROOFING COMPANY

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.

RELIABLE, HONEST
ROOFERS FULLY
INSURED
★★★★★



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



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

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

10% OFF WITH THIS ADVERT



**ENQUIRE FOR
GREAT PRICES**

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
- Vinyl Flooring
- Luxury Vinyl
- Laminates

WHY CHOOSE US?

Mobile showroom for home selection 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

11

Marvellous Medieval Music

What a delightful way to mark the arrival of our new chairs at St Mary Magdalene's, Lillington. On the evening of Saturday 11th April, we were delighted to host a memorable concert featuring the talented duo Marco Cannavo and Steve Tyler, performing 'Musica Medievalis'. Playing a fascinating array of traditional instruments, including the hurdy-gurdy and citole, they transported us to another time with beautiful, evocative music from the Spanish, French and English Middle Ages.



Marco Cannavo
and Steve Tyler

The response was extraordinary. Our church was at capacity, with many visitors joining us, some for the very first time. It was heartening to see our church so full of life and enjoyment - demonstrating once again how versatile and welcoming our space can be. The musicians provided historical context to each piece of music and were happy to answer some very specialised questions.

During the interval, wine and soft drinks were served, raising valuable funds for the church. We received many compliments on the concert, the welcoming atmosphere, and, of course, the comfort of our new chairs! It was a joyful evening in every sense and one that brought music, community and celebration together. We look forward to many more such occasions in the future.

Isabella Moore





OAKLEY
GRANGE
CINNAMON LUXURY CARE

**NOW
OPEN**
BOOK A TOUR
TODAY



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.

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**



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.



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.

Ukraine Coffee Morning



On Saturday 11th April, we held a special coffee morning here at St Mary Mag's, raising almost £900 for the Belveder charity, which provides humanitarian aid including ambulances and medical items for those in need in Ukraine. As always, the coffee and cakes were amazing, and we were entertained by Ukranian children, who sang and danced beautifully. Thanks to all who came and donated their time and money to make this a very special coffee morning indeed.

Sara Snatt

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



Josephine
Rugg



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](https://www.facebook.com/wcscare)  [wcs_care](https://www.instagram.com/wcs_care)

From The Church Records –		
Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals & Memorial
Sunday Worship in May		
3 - 5th of Easter	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & online) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (church)
10 – 6th of Easter	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All plus Sunday Club and Lunch (in church)
17 – 7th of Easter	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)
24 - Pentecost	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)
31 - Trinity	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)

Weekday Services in May - Holy Communion in church & online at 10am on Wednesday 6,13,20 and 27 May

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.



Volunteering with Samaritans is an opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives while gaining valuable skills and experiences. You don't need to have been through a particular life experience or be from a certain walk of life. We will train, mentor and support you all the way. If you would like to find out more, ask questions and discover more about what would be involved please come along to our New Volunteer Welcome and Information Evening on Tuesday 9th June, 7.00pm-8.30pm at Tyler House, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6TY. Contact 01789 332545 to register attendance or visit [Your paragraph text](#)

Samaritans – Ordinary people, just like you, doing extraordinary things every day.

Our New Flexible Space

It's all change at St MMs and since the removal of the pews and arrival of chairs, we have begun to use our wonderful church space differently. Throughout Holy Week, chairs were moved around to allow us to use our space in ways which engendered creativity and deeper spiritual connections.

On Maundy Thursday over 50 parishioners took part in a Passover meal, following a pattern set 2,000 years ago with various herbs and foods taken to symbolise the story of the Exodus from Egypt – a tale of redemption. On Easter Friday, sitting in the round, we faced the cross, lighting candles and meditating on Christ's sacrifice for us.

We are looking forward to many more special occasions where we are able to use our church space in yet more interesting ways, to deepen our worship and expand our engagement with the local community.

Sara Snatt





JOIN US FOR A



COFFEE MORNING

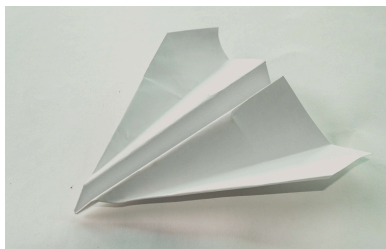
SATURDAY 9TH MAY

10 - 12

St Mary Magdalene's Vicarage Rd Lillington

Great Cakes and Coffee
Kids' Crafts





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



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

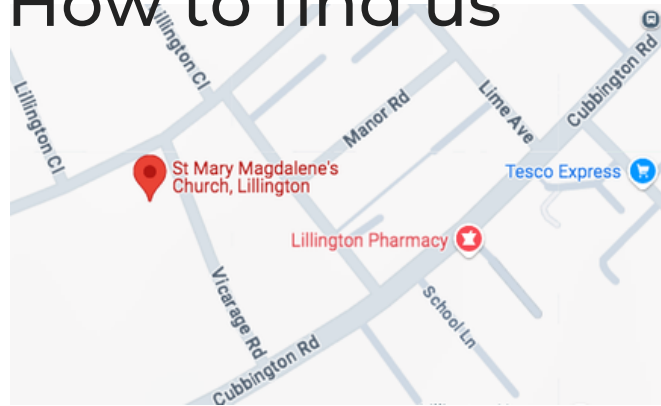
OR you can now join us via our website:

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