The Good News

St Mary Magdalene's

PARISH MAGAZINE

CROSS TALK



November 2025

At the Heart of Your Community

From the Vicar...



Dear friends

As I write this letter, work on renovating the Old Vicarage for the new owners is entering its second year, plans for work inside the church to provide more flexible seating and greater space for a variety of activities continue and work on the ramp to provide access for all creeps slowly onwards. 'Rome' they say, 'was not built in a day'. However, we have been assured that (at least as far as the ramp is concerned) we should be operational sometime in November. More details to follow regarding plans for an opening ceremony when we have a date that we can be sure of.

Lots of other activities are planned for November which is always one of the busiest months of the year. On the 9th of November it is Remembrance Sunday, and we will gather together at 10am in church and conclude with our act of Remembrance around the war memorial at 11am. Later in the evening of the 9th at 6pm we will have our Annual Memorial Service and will be reading out the names of loved ones at that special service.

Sunday 16th of November is national Safeguarding Sunday. We will be taking part in this important occasion and it will be a chance to highlight the important steps we are taking to protect and safeguard our dealings with children and vulnerable adults. There is a Gospel imperative here and this is a new service in the liturgical calendar.

Finally, on Saturday 22nd of November we are staging another Talent Auction. This year it will have a ‘Christmas’ theme to it. The auction will begin at 5pm in church. In preparation for this do please book the date in your diary and consult the list of talents that will be up for auction. We take offerings for the next three weeks. And as if this wasn’t enough, we will be having a ‘pudding parade’ as well that evening, so lots of home-made treats to accompany the fun.

Wishing you all every blessing,



Come and Join us for Delia's Christmas Fair

Monday 17th Nov 10.00 - 18.30

CHARITIES SUPPORTED:

***Parkinson's UK *Save the Children**

***The Rufus Trust**

Lots of Exciting New Stalls

Delicious Refreshments

Cake Stall in aid of Love Lillington

5, Park Road Leamington CV32 6LG





Reverse Advent Bags Appeal

This year we are supporting the Lillington Branch of the Warwick District Foodbank with our Love Lillington 2025 Reverse Advent Project.

Strong brown paper carrier bags will be available for you to fill with your contributions – or you can use a Christmas gift bag you already have at home. Decorating the plain carrier bags with festive colour always proves popular – so please do join in with this idea if you can.

Reverse Advent Bags will be available in church for collection during November, which you can take home and fill up, ready for Christmas. Filled bags will be received back into church at all services on Sunday 7th December. If you are worshipping on-line or are unable to deliver your filled bag to church – please do get in touch with me and I will make arrangements to deliver and collect your bag.

How it Works

Many of us have an Advent calendar with a chocolate or little toy for each day. With the Reverse Advent Calendar, you GIVE a little something for each day. Please fill your bag for our local Foodbank and at the same time your help will support what Love Lillington is doing in our Community.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS :
Cranberry Sauce, Gravy Granules, Christmas Puddings, Christmas Chocolates, Chocolate Puddings/Yule Logs, Christmas Biscuits/Cake, Tinned Salmon, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Custard, Cream Crackers, Mince Pies, Non-alcoholic drinks, Stuffing, Bread Sauce, Christmas Crackers (non-edible kind) Supermarket Gift Cards.

At the end of Advent these will be fantastic bags of gifts for us to deliver to the Foodbank to be passed on for the community in need in Lillington.

Christine Butler

lovelillingtonaction@lillingtonparishchurch.org or 07963 229756





SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2025

On Sunday 16 November 2025 and over the following weeks, thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions will join together to shout about safeguarding and help protect vulnerable people.

This initiative, spearheaded by Thirtyone:eight invites communities to come together to reflect on their safeguarding journey, and highlight all the good work that is being done to create safer places.

LOVE LILLINGTON THANKS go to Lillington Free Church for their kindness in donating the proceeds of their Coffee Morning on 4th October to Love Lillington. £82.50 was donated.

A number of us attended that morning and the toasted teacakes were delicious!



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

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

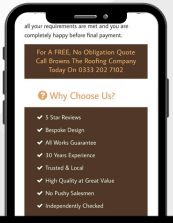

New Roofs


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

St Mary Magdalene's invites you to a

TALENT AUCTION

INCLUDING PUDDING PARADE!

Bid on amazing items while enjoying a fantastic evening!



SATURDAY 22 NOV AT 5PM

ST MARY MAG'S
CV32 7RH

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

Remembrance Sunday

November 9th

10.00am



The Sunday Service will be at 10.00am
and will then be followed
by an act of remembrance at 11.00am outside
by the war memorial.
There will be no All Age Service that dy.

Annual Memorial Service

November 9th



6.00pm



Once again we will gather together
to remember loved ones
who have gone ahead of us.
Names will be read out and candles lit
as we gather in the church for this special annual service.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

One Rule for the Ancient; Another for the Modern?

"The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate,
God made them high or lowly and ordered their estate"

Well, obviously we can't sing that nowadays, and there is another verse often omitted from Britain's favourite hymn - the one beginning "The tall trees in the greenwood, the meadows where we play"; this because children in dirty old towns of the past hardly knew what a meadow was. Nevertheless, the rest of the hymn works perfectly well on its own and, mercifully no one has altered the words. Mrs Alexander's lines, in their purity, have been left alone.
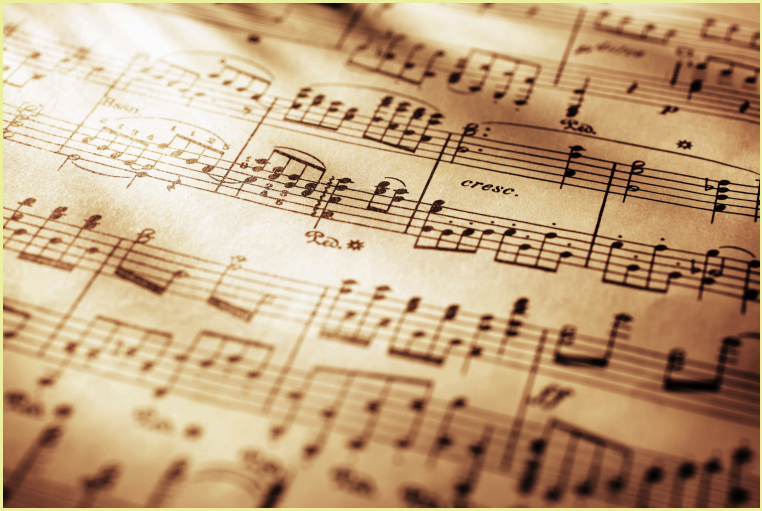
Not all hymn writers have been so lucky. In some hymns, words sung for a lifetime have been altered, almost always clumsily. A prime example is Baring-Gould's 'Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow'. In place of the vivid and heroic "Brother clasps the hand of brother, stepping fearless through the night" we are given the insipid "So we march in hope united". OK, you can say that the original is less inclusive; but did anyone singing it ever really feel excluded rather than strengthened and inspired?

Yet for modern writers a different set of rules seems to apply. Against the title of almost all modern hymns in our book appears that little copyright symbol. This seems to say, don't even think about altering the words of my precious creation – and if there is any money to be made from it, make sure it comes straight to me!

There are some decent modern hymn writers: Graham Kendrick (Shine, Jesus, Shine) seems a modern-day Charles Wesley; Sydney Carter (Lord of the Dance) wrote hymns remarkable for not mentioning God at all and Timothy Dudley-Smith (Tell Out My Soul). His solid, well-structured work contains a lot of ideas yet is eminently singable.

And where, you may well ask, are the contemporary women writers in all this? Is it just a boys' club? Where are the present-day equivalents to Mrs Alexander, Christina Rossetti or Leamington's own Frances Havergal? Given the pre-eminence of female writers in modern secular literature, they must be out there somewhere. Maybe we should be actively looking out for them rather than picking holes in our ancient hymnody.

Trevor Humphreys



This month we are proud to support Christians Against Poverty

Poverty is so much more than going without. Poverty destroys lives. It robs people of joy, hope, and opportunities. It tears families apart, isolates those most in need of support, and leads many to believe there is no way out.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK-based charity that offers free debt advice and support, budgeting help, and job search assistance. CAP works with individuals and families to help them get out of debt and improve their financial situation.

A Feast for the Eyes



Thanks to Wendy Shear for this incredible Harvest display and to all the flower team for their wonderful floral arrangements. We are lucky to have such creativity in our church community.

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

Blind Faith

I do think how fortunate we are, here in Leamington, to have the Guide Dogs for the Blind centre. The dogs and their handlers can frequently be seen around our town training the dogs to lead and guide the many blind people in the country. It is incredible - the trust and bond that exists once the dogs are fully trained and given to their new owner.

Sight is just one of the many things that often gets taken for granted, until advancing years, accident or illness can damage it or take it away. Eyes are truly amazing. They are referred to as the 'windows of the soul' as they convey so much. Without a word being spoken, eyes can reveal so many emotions as well as allowing us to see the world around us.

A few weeks ago I was in Manchester and as I was walking to Piccadilly railway station, I was suddenly stopped in my tracks by what was in front of me.

There is a life-size monument cast in bronze and situated at ground level, not on a plinth.



It is seven soldiers from World War One, each with their eyes bandages with cloth, maybe as a result of mustard gas, walking one behind the other, each with a hand on the shoulder of the soldier in front of him to be guided away, hopefully to some place of relative safety.

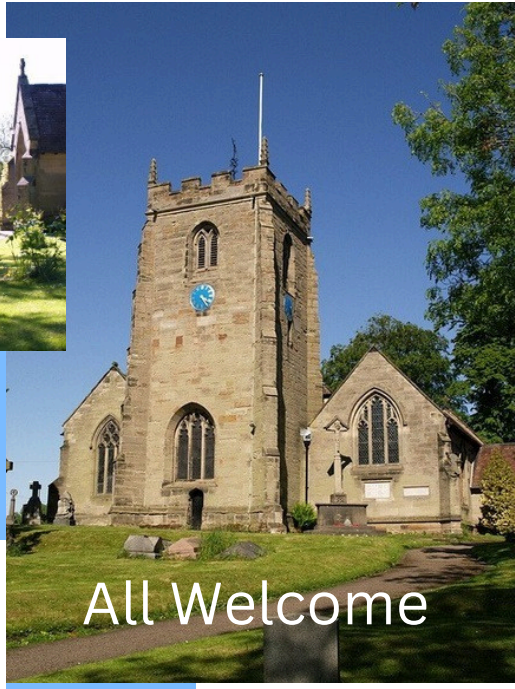
Everything stopped for me, for what seemed like ages, to take in this vision of young men, fighting for their country, and suddenly unable to see. What horror for them to be cast into pain and darkness and the only way forward was to put all their trust in the soldier in front of them to escape the battlefield. Truly it was the blind leading the blind, each relying on one another.

And yet, in this scene of tragedy, placed where it is, at a busy station entrance in one of our major cities, it displays a message of hope, strength and courage. But for me it also conveys the trust and faith that they had to put in each other. When we go through difficult and sometimes frightening times, we also need to put a hand on the person who can guide us through it. Faith in Jesus Christ will give us all the support we need, we just need to reach out and touch Him.
“Lead us, heavenly Father leads us, O’er the world’s tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but Thee.”

Jan Talbot







ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH LILLINGTON

SOCIAL EVENTS

Come and join us for...

Saturday 8th November 10am Coffee Morning in the Octagon

Saturday 22nd November 5pm Christmas Talent Auction in the Octagon

Saturday 6th December 10am Coffee Morning with Christmas stalls in the church and Octagon

CONTACT US 01926 470449 facebook.com/LillingtonParishChurch


JOIN US FOR A COSY COFFEE MORNING
ST MARY MAG'S
SAT 8TH NOV
10-12
WITH KIDS' CRAFTS LOVELY CAKES HOT CHOC AND GREAT COFFEE

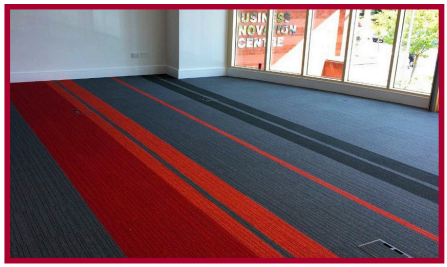
10% OFF WITH THIS ADVERT



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

Textbooks for Kids

Back in May, we hosted a coffee morning raising funds for African Vision Malawi's 'Textbooks for Kids' appeal. The target of 390 books was reached! Gaynor wishes to thank all who attended/ donated for their generosity.

'Thank you everyone from the bottom of my heart for your amazing kindness. You have given these children the chance of a better future. Zikomo Kwambiri!'

Gaynor Cook



Our World



Recently a group of us from this church went on a trip to a woollen mill at Lechlade and it was a lovely day out. We learned about the history of sheep farming and the wool trade in the Cotswolds centuries ago and the beginnings of the mill there.

The journey there was delightful as there were times en route that we could glimpse beautiful views either side of the road stretching for miles, fields, hedgerows and trees far into the distance.

Apart from the view, we saw amazing huge billowing clouds sweeping above us: inky black underneath; ready to release some much-needed rain, their tops white and looking like balls of cotton wool. As the sun shone above them it was making the clouds seem almost edged in silver, sparkling against the clear blue of the sky. Nature is truly remarkable, if we take time to see what is around us. There is beauty in the simplest of things that we so easily take for granted.

We are fortunate indeed in our time to have, what I consider, one of the most awe-inspiring photographs ever taken - that of ‘Earthrise’ taken by the crew of Apollo 8 in 1978. For the first time we could actually see the Earth carefully balanced on its axis, suspended in the darkness of outer space; and yet, constantly and unfailingly turning night into day and year into year. Looking at that photograph makes me realise what a huge privilege it is to be a part of this vast universe, for what will be barely a nano second in time in the great scheme of things. Being a living part of the energy generated by the forces of nature, a part of God’s creation is a precious gift.

What would be the outcome if all the world’s leaders were gathered together and taken up into space? I wonder if they would look at this beautiful blue planet wrapped in drifts of clouds as it spins, the white of the Polar regions and the green of the land masses, if they would see the fragility of this this planet. From the standpoint of outer space, they would see no wars or fighting, no hunger or need, just a beautiful world that we are blessed with. Would they feel humility or have a different profound perspective on humanity, to realise that we all need to live in peace and take care of each other and this planet?

My prayer is that one day every nation can live side by side and share the love of God; that leaders will turn their backs on greed, power and destruction. I know that I am eternally grateful and humbled and continue to give thanks for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful creation.

Jan Talbot



NEED A ROOFER?

Our Services Include

- NEW ROOFS
- ROOF REPAIRS
- FASCIAS, SOFFITS & GUTTERING
- FLAT ROOF/RUBBER/FELT
- LEAD WORK
- BRICKWORK & REPOINTING
- DRY RIDGE SYSTEM
- DRY VERGE SYSTEM
- ALL YOUR ROOFING NEEDS

ROOF GARD

RELIABLE . REPUTABLE . ROOFING

★ **ALL WORK UNDERTAKEN IS GUARANTEED**

★ **FULLY INSURED**
Insurance Backed Guarantees

CALL FOR FREE QUOTATION

07949 029789 | 01926 346364

Email: **roofgard@mail.com**

Cedar Tree Barn, Fosse Way CV31 1XQ

FEDERATION OF MASTER BUILDERS

TRUSTMARK
Government Endorsed Quality

Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters

Which? Trusted Trader

Walkers' Group October Walk

On 4th October, six of us drove to the car park at the north end of Kenilworth Castle. It was a very blustery day at the tail-end of storm Amy, but we managed to fit our walk in before the next spell of rain. We started by following the castle wall in a clockwise direction, then the access road towards Castle Farm.

A path branching off to the right took us alongside some football pitches hosting Saturday morning matches. We passed in front of Oaks Farm, with a large bull in an adjoining field! A path over a little bridge took us through a couple more fields and up to a pond where we stopped for a coffee break. Resuming our walk to the right along the track, we soon passed through a gap in the hedge to the left, crossed diagonally over a field, and found we were rejoining our outward path by the paddock near Castle Farm. We returned past the castle, continuing the clockwise journey around its walls, to the car park. We had lunch at the Clarendon Arms, which provided us with a most enjoyable meal.

Bob Cooke



WCS CARE

Every day well lived

Four Ways care home

Your local not-for-profit care home provider.

- Caring, friendly staff available when you need them
- A warm welcome to family and friends
- A range of activities and things to get involved with
- Memory Maker minibus for trips out





Facilities at Four Ways

- Café and hair salon
- Conservatory and garden with patio
- Household lounges, dining rooms and kitchenettes



Josephine Rugg

Our Trusted Advisor, Josephine, is happy to answer your questions about living in a care home.
Call us on 01926 421 309 and 'Press 1' to speak to Josephine.

Find out more

wcs-care.co.uk /wcscare wcs_care

Registered charity number 1012788



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**

CROSSTALK

St Mary Magdalene, Lillington Parish Magazine

Advertising Rates 2024

Annual (11 issues):
¼ page £120
½ page £150
Full page £180

Single month:
¼ page £20
½ page £30
Full page £40

To find out more, please contact Mark at

crosstalk@lillingtonparishchurch.org





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.

From The Church Records - September		
Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
Phoenix Francis		Hazel Marshall

Sunday Worship in November		
2 Nov. All Saints	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & online) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (in church)
9 Nov. Remembrance	10.00am 6.00pm	Joint Holy Communion (in church & online) All Souls Service (in church)
16 Nov 2nd Before Advent	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Sunday Club and Community Lunch (in church)
23 Nov Christ the King	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)
30 Nov Advent 1	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church) Advent Service (in church)

Weekday Services in November - Holy Communion in church/ online at 10am on Wednesday 5,12,19,26 November

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.



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
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

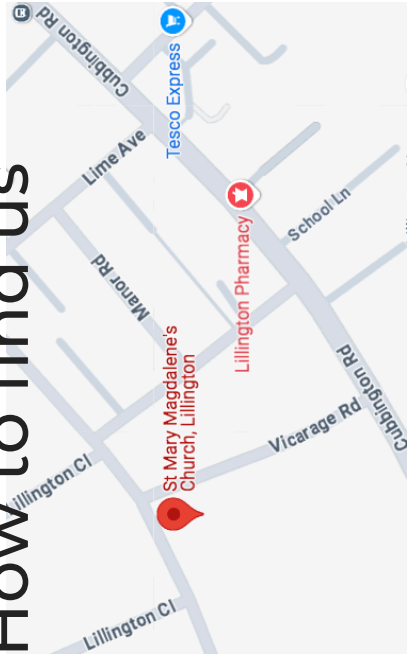
(40 minute service with children at its heart)

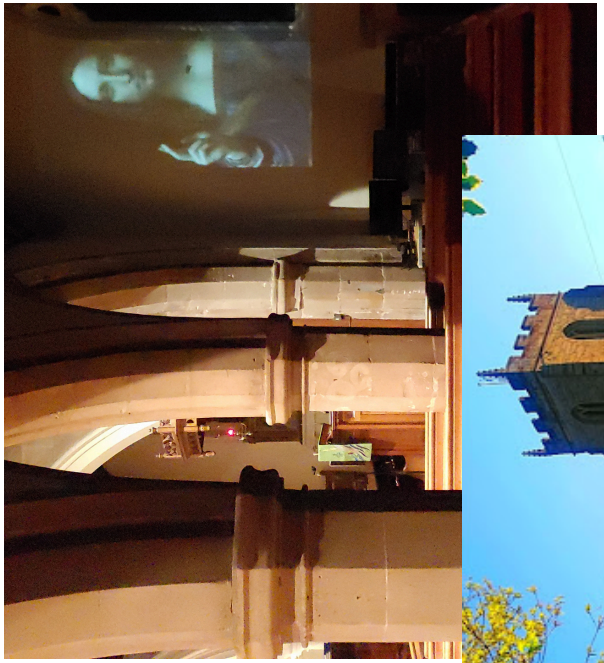
Wednesday

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