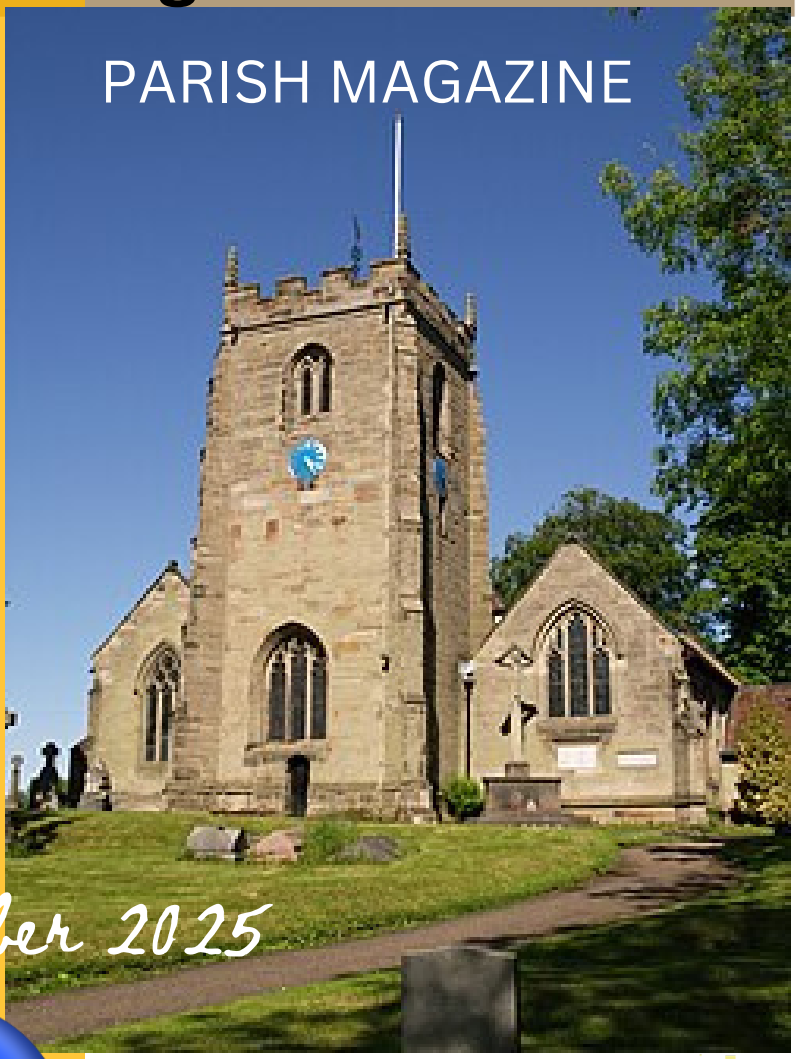
The Good News

St Mary Magdalene's

PARISH MAGAZINE



CROSS TALK

October 2025

Jesus Loves You

From the Vicar

Dear Friends



As I write this the excavation works on the church path outside the porch have begun and we are finally under way for the construction of the new step and ramp into church. Thank you for your patience while this work is under way. We hope to have the work completed in October.

October is also the month that we traditionally celebrate Harvest at St Mary Magdalene's. We will be having a joint service on Sunday 12th at 10.30 am followed by refreshments at the back of church and then a lunch for those who have signed up in the Octagon at 12 noon. Our theme this year will be 'gratitude' and as an expression of this there will be the collection of tinned and packet food. These will be taken to the local Food Bank and our Harvest Charity will be Water Aid; donations collected will be sent there. Thank you to all who have supported the Food Bank all year - it continues to be a really vital support for local people in serious need.

At St Mary Magdalene's the Eucharist is a very important service. It is celebrated on Sundays and in the middle of the week. The word 'Euchrarist' comes from the Greek work 'eucharistia' meaning 'thanksgiving'. So, at the heart of what we do each week is a service of gratitude. The act of being thankful comes very naturally to some but it is very easy for many of us to get a little preoccupied with what we lack rather than what we have.

A disciple grumbled, "My shoes are torn, my feet ache, my journey is miserable." The Master replied, "Then take your shoes off." The disciple walked barefoot a while. The ground was rough, the stones sharp. When he put his old shoes back on, he sighed in relief. The Master smiled: "Gratitude is the joy of what you already have."

God bless,

William



MAKING BREAD

I have been making my own bread for a few years now and while doing so, some thoughts have come to mind which I would like to share with you…

I realise that many of our parishioners are much more experienced than myself in making bread, so apologies if these thoughts are not new to you. They have not happened all in one go, but gradually, over time.

When I first began making bread, I found that I always got something wrong – perhaps I left out the sugar or salt; or did not prove it long enough. But the strange thing was, that it was always edible. It seemed that the bread was very forgiving of my mistakes - it was still bread and it was good to eat.

Then the kneading of the bread (and the play is on the word need, or how it is spelt). The bread needed to be kneaded. A bit like us really. Next, as I learnt from my 1961 edition of 'Mrs Beeton's Cookery and Household Management', when making bread it's good to have a warm kitchen: again a bit like for us - warmth is always comforting.

The first time the bread is kneaded, the idea is to get as much air into the mixture as possible to encourage the carbonic acid gas to form air holes. Another interesting fact is that the yeast is living and comes alive when it is watered and exposed to the air. Then there is the proving, or resting time. Just like dough, we need to rest, and in our resting we are re-enlivened. This is when the bread is alive and grows.

After resting, we need to knead again, this time to get all the air out of the bread mixture. Similar to us and our breathing – our inspiration and our expiration. When the mixture is placed into the oven, it kills the yeast. For me, this is a bit like dying to self, or trying to!

When cooked, it gives us our 'daily bread' and the bread becomes alive again, in us.

Margaret Moore



Love Lillington News



At the end of August Sarah Galloon – Health Visitor for the Crest and surrounding area – retired. Sarah had worked closely with me in the last 10 years of Love Lillington and more recently also with Delia Button. We have received many referrals from Sarah for the families she has supported and it has been a pleasure to hear from her so regularly. During COVID Sarah also referred to the Vicar's Discretionary Fund and William was able to help with cash donations in urgent cases of need. On 9th September I was invited to call in to Sarah's farewell party at the Children's Centre and I heard many kind words said in the speeches. Sarah has worked for 40 years in the NHS, firstly as a Community Midwife and more recently as the Health Visitor we knew and loved. Farewell Sarah. You will be missed. Enjoy your retirement!

Christine Butler

LOVE LILLINGTON
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ALWAYS WEAR A HAT!

This month I am going on a specialised tour of Pompeii and Herculaneum. I first visited Pompeii in 1985 and as it was the height of an Italian summer it was very, very hot and sunny; there is no shade in Pompeii. On the day of the excursion to Pompeii, I awoke with a migraine and, stupidly, managed to faint just 30 minutes into our tour: dehydrated, head pounding and NO hat. I spent the rest of the visit recovering on the tour bus, drinking water and cooling off with the aircon and missing the tour. I have wanted to return ever since.

Much has been uncovered at Pompeii in the last 40 years, as anyone who has watched the recent TV documentaries will know. Unmade beds, bread in the oven, tables set for a meal, amphora propped in a corner of the kitchen, even a glorious chariot parked in its “garage” at one amazing villa have been uncovered. Of course, we know what happened in AD79 when Vesuvius erupted and the city was destroyed: countless residents were killed and the city remained covered in pumice and ash for centuries until it was discovered in the late 1500s, with systematic excavations beginning there in 1748. But the saddest discoveries since then are the remains of those who perished - terrified, disorientated, unbelieving, helpless, forgotten.



All of this makes me remember the devastating February 1971 Sylmar Earthquake (6.6 on the Richter Scale) in the San Fernando Valley in Southern California. On that day I was in Santa Barbara, at university there, and unable to contact my mother to see if she was OK. In those days there were no mobile phones; the telephone lines were down; many homes were without water or electricity and gas was leaking. My world was in turmoil; I could not get home by road or rail and didn't know if my loved ones were safe. I knew terror too, helplessness and shock. On that day, over 4 billion dollars worth of damage was done, 65 people died and over 2,000 were injured.

Both events, 2,000 years apart, remind us that life can be snuffed out in seconds. Mother Nature can strike with shocking speed, intensity and fury. We can think at times like these that God hates us; is punishing us, that there is no use in expecting Him to show mercy. But Pliny the Younger, who observed the eruption, wrote that faithful people were seen in Pompeii praying to their gods. Churches are often full after disasters. These events show us that though God may have purposes we don't understand, He did give us life and those of us who survive these natural disasters must help those who have been badly affected. We should be grateful for survival and see that these awful yet awe-inspiring events in nature show that we are part of something far larger than humankind which is so often selfish, spiteful, wasteful, warmongering and entitled.

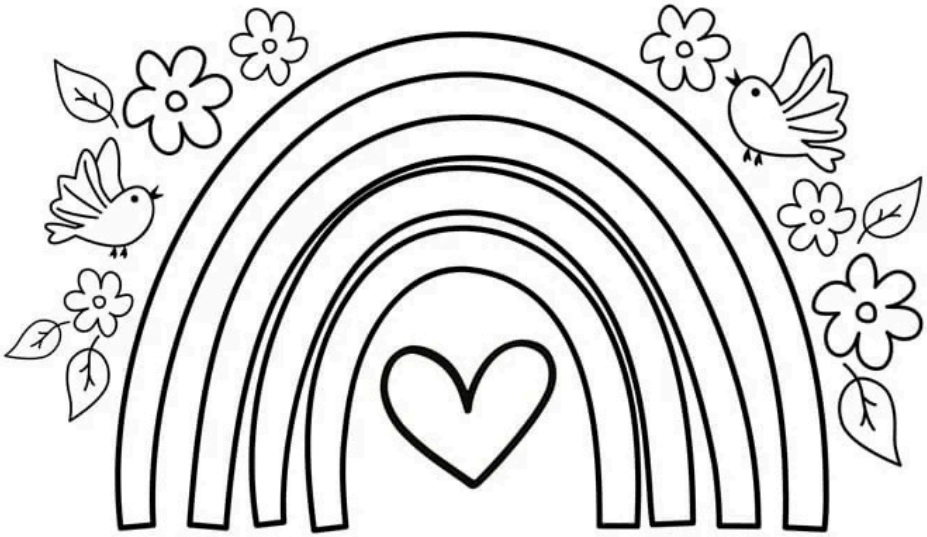
What will I do in October? First of all, I am packing a large hat! Second, I am hoping to see how daily life was lived in Roman times, how art, sculpture, architecture, literature, humour and food were experienced. But most of all, I expect to see that I am just a tiny thing in God's universe and appreciate the minuscule time frame I am allotted here on earth because Vesuvius might just erupt while I am there...

Cynthia Bayliss

Words of Wisdom

Ex-teacher Thelma Dawkes has set a few science tests in her time. Here we see that children's answers can often be quite philosophical...

- I am not sure how clouds get formed but the clouds know how to do it, and that is the most important thing.
- Vacuums are nothings. We only mention them to let you know they are there.
- Some people can tell the time by looking at the sun but I have never been able to make out the numbers.
- Clouds just keep circling the earth around and around. There is not much else to do.



Colour me in

HARVEST

Sunday 12th October 2025

JOINT SERVICE

10.30am

Warwick District foodbank

Tinned food collected for the Foodbank
Money for Water Aid

Followed by lunch in the Octagon





ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH LILLINGTON

SOCIAL EVENTS

Come and join us for...

Saturday 11th October 10am Coffee Morning - Octagon

Sunday 12th October 10.30am Joint Harvest Service followed by a Community Lunch - Church

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

Saturday 8th November 10am Coffee Morning - Octagon

Saturday 22nd November 5pm Christmas Talent Auction - Octagon

Saturday 6th December 10am Coffee Morning with Christmas stalls - Church and Octagon

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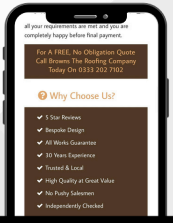

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Coffee Morning

SATURDAY 11TH OCT

10 - 12



ST MARY MAGDALENE'S

With Kids' Crafts

Walkers' Report

On August 6th a small group of us met at the church for our usual August evening walk. We drove along the Fosse and parked in Combrook village. It was a warm evening though somewhat overcast. We set off for an hour's stroll from the village church. Passing through the tiny but very peaceful and attractive Compton Verney Estate village, we walked for a while alongside the beautiful and surprisingly large Compton Verney lake - an impressive legacy of Capability Brown - and full of very large pike according to a keen angler in the congregation! We then crossed a field before reaching the road which crosses and divides the lake - the rest of it being in front of Compton Verney House. After a short trek along the road we turned right into a field and entered a wood. As we left the wood a convenient bench formed the basis for a group photograph, and we enjoyed for a while a splendid view towards Bredon Hill in the distance. Refreshments followed at the welcoming Antelope Inn in Lighthorne.

Godfrey Carr



On a warm September morning 10 eager walkers set off on a walk around Southam. We set off from The Bowling Green Pub down the high street through the church yard into the playing fields. Turning left onto the road we headed towards the Holy Well where we stopped and took some photographs. Leaving the well we walked through fields to the weir and where originally there was a mill. We sat for a while and had refreshments taking in the lovely scenery. After a while we retraced our steps until we got back to the well and took a left hand path up the hill and on a path through the houses which joined Welsh Road. After a short walk we arrived at the pub where we enjoyed super meal.

Sandra Dear



This month we are proud to support...

The Graham Fulford Charitable Trust. This charity was set up by Graham Fulford to promote awareness of prostate cancer following the diagnosis of a close friend who died at the age of 58 and a close family member who died in 2007 from prostate cancer. GFCT offers testing all over the UK for a range of conditions including prostate cancer, and strives to spread awareness about the importance of early diagnosis in saving lives.

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.



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STAR CHURCH

11.15 SUNDAY FAMILY FOCUS

INCLUSIVE CELEBRATION

LIVE CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

@St Mary M's

St Mary Magdalene's

CONCERT

WITH CHEESE AND WINE

Saturday 18th October
7.30 pm





Jane Moss - folk songs with a ukulele
Paul Monks - light jazz, tenor and alto saxophone
Michael King on the organ

Vicarage Rd Lillington CV32 7RH

Donations to the Organ Fund

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning



and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.

Place: **St Mary Magdalene's Church**

Date: **Wednesday 22nd October 2025**

Time: **11.00am – 12.30pm**

Contact: Christine Butler 07963 229756
j.butler1christine@gmail.com

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT M&S FOOD COSTA COFFEE Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

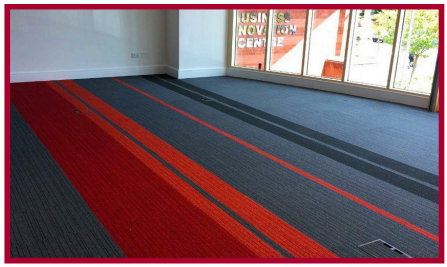
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St Mary Magdalene, Lillington Parish Magazine

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crosstalk@lillingtonparishchurch.org





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From The Church Records - August		
Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
	Roberta Button and Stuart Ross French	

Sunday Worship in October		
5 Oct. Trinity 16	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & online) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (in church)
12 Oct. Harvest	10.30am	Joint Holy Communion (in church & online)
19 Oct. Trinity 18	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)
26 Oct Trinity 19	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All/ Sunday Club (in church)

Weekday Services in September - Holy Communion in church/ online at 10am on Wednesday 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 October

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!

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Church Services

Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion Service

(1 hour service with robed choir)

11.15am All Age Service

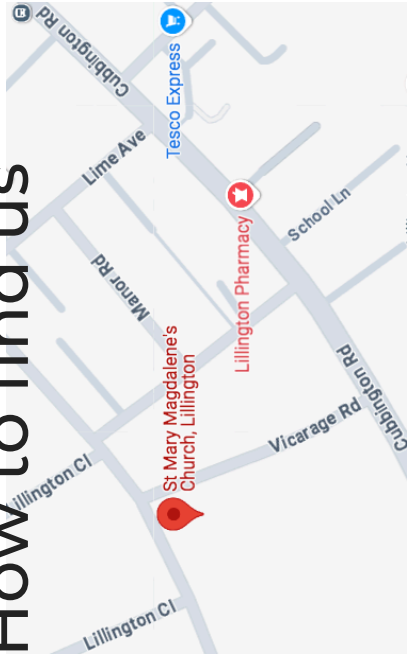
(40 minute service with children at its heart)

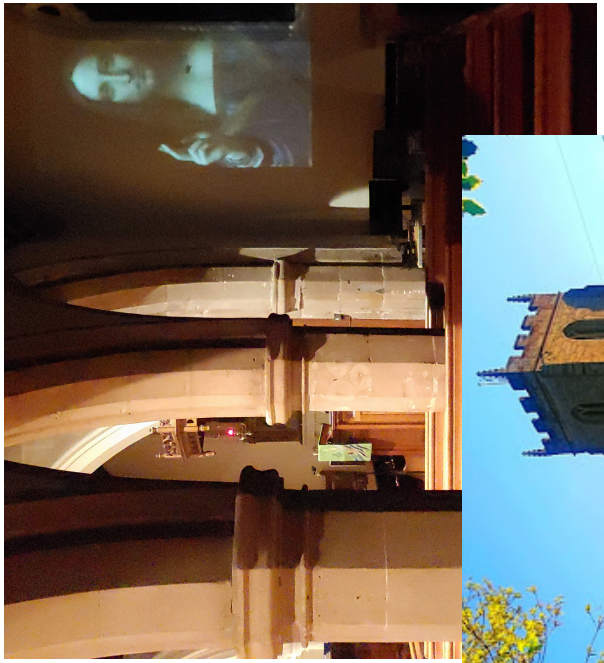
Wednesday

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







Vicarage Rd, Lillington
Leamington Spa CV32 7RH
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