

CROSS TALK

the GOODnews
st mary
magdalene's
PARISH MAGAZINE

september 2025

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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



When I first walked through the door of St Mary Magdalene's over seven years ago now it was very obvious to me that in a society where disabled access is an important consideration, having two steps into church was a problem. In my simple mind the solution was to raise the level of the path and that would be the end of it. It had worked in other churches that I had ministered in but not here. The option of raising the path creates big problems for gradients into the Octagon so another solution was needed.

Despite this I was confident that an inexpensive alternative could be found. How wrong I was! The issue of making access to the church easy for all users has been something that has been talked about and proposed, cancelled, adjusted, redesigned, shelved, reconsidered, modified and discussed for decades. Along the way heritage bodies, building controllers, Diocesan Committees and Parochial Church Councils have all had their input, their opinions considered, and their recommendations acted upon.

As I write this article the plans are for work to begin on the installation of the new step and ramp into church in September. It is work that is likely to take a couple of months and it means that the main door to the church will have to be closed for a significant part of this process.



From the end of October onwards the old wooden ramp, which always looked like an afterthought, will be a thing of the past. Once the new ramp and step are in position, the entrance to the church will make an important statement in its own right.

It will say from now on that all are welcome, and we take access seriously enough to want to change the front of the building to make this possible.

With every blessing,

William

The Threads of Life



The other day I bumped into an acquaintance I hadn't seen since I lost my husband. She enquired how I was getting on, to which I replied that 'I am picking up the threads again. Thanks for asking.'

I pondered this on the way home. Why did I say that? What does that mean in reality? I went on to think about the trip we had from St MM's to Southwell Minster, to see an exhibition of tapestries.

What an amazing event it was: huge textile panels, each one composed of different materials, texture, colours and threads. This was the work of one lady who on each piece depicted her own vision from words of the Bible, starting with the Creation and working through the birth, death and resurrection of Christ right up to Revelations.

So, although we saw many different aspects of the Bible, the thread running through was of course the Word of God - the one thing that linked everything.

Whilst I was looking at the exhibits, I heard a couple of ladies discussing the 'mechanics' of constructing such wonderful pieces, while I was just in awe of the artist's ability to turn the Word of God into artworks which brought the Bible to life.

I do wonder, when this Earthly life comes to an end, do we have the opportunity to stand back and look at the tapestry of our own life? Do we view it from the rear perhaps, and see all the joins, knots and a few frayed edges all in a bit of a jumble? Or do we see it as the complete picture with clarity in all its richness, colour, twists and turns?

I do know that I have 'dropped the thread' a few times in my life: not my faith, but certainly times when thanks and worship for my many blessings were not a part of my life. Nonetheless, my faith in the Risen Lord is the constant thread - always there, unseen, holding the rest of the picture together.

So, yes, my answer that day does make sense: God does allow us to drop the thread sometimes, but rejoices when we pick it back up again, when once more we give thanks and praise for His constant love, holding our picture together even in the darkest of times. I do know that in those times when I have dropped the thread, so to speak, that it is me who has turned away from God for a while; He does not turn away from us. He is patient and all forgiving and waits with open arms for our return.

Jan Talbot



ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH LILLINGTON SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday 13th September 10am
Coffee Morning - Octagon



Saturday 20th September 5pm Sabbatical Slides and Spice Evening
Presentation in church followed by flavours of India in the Octagon

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

CONTACT US



01926 470449



facebook.com/LillingtonParishChurch

AN UPDATE ON SUPPORTING UKRAINE



Our church of St Mary Magdalene continues to support the Ukraine people by donating medical supplies. These are collected in the box situated in our church and usually delivered every fortnight to the collection point at the Army Surplus Stores in Harbury Lane. Here, they are collected by representatives of the Polish Centre and delivered to ambulances which are then driven to Ukraine. Dawid Kozlowski has personal contact with a convent and orphanage in Ukraine as well as people on the frontline. So far just over 50 ambulances have driven out. Dawid, and all at the Polish Centre, are extremely thankful for our help; this article is to pass on their thanks to you all.

Another way to help is by sending donations to their charity called Belveder CIC, which collects funds for the purchase of ambulances and other items too. If you would like to help in this way, either by a one off, or monthly payments, their details are:

Account Name: Belveder CIC. Sort Code: 08 92 99. Account No: 67309744. Please quote the Reference 'Ukraine'

Thank you. Your help is so much appreciated.
Margaret Moore



Coffee Morning

SATURDAY 13TH SEPT

10 - 12



ST MARY MAGDALENE'S

With Kids' Crafts



On 10th June, nine of us drove to the Blue Lias Inn between Long Itchington and Stockton. We started our walk by following the Grand Union Canal past the Stockton flight of locks to the next road bridge, where we crossed the Southam to Rugby Road into Tasker's Meadow. We stopped overlooking Nelson's Wharf - a marina and glamping centre - then followed a footpath skirting the old Nelson's Quarry to the site in Wynstay. From here we followed the road over Gibraltar Bridge, and down Calias Lane towards the Boat Inn as the towpath is quite overgrown at this point. We took the towpath to re- cross under Rugby Road and on down the lock flight to return to the Blue Lias to enjoy our lunch.

Bob Cooke – walk leader



On the 5th July, seven eager walkers set off from the square in Long Itchington down through the village towards the river. Turning right after passing the church we set off over the river bridge on the road towards Bascote. About 100 yards further on we turned left across some fields and headed up on to the old railway line - a pleasant flat walk shaded by trees and very easy walking. We walked along the canal towpath towards Long Itchington, coming across a pair of Swans which were very friendly. The only thing we had to give them to eat was half a banana. They seemed to be very puzzled but soon got the hang of fishing it out and enjoying it. After about a mile we walked back across two fields and a little wood back to the village - 3 miles walked in good weather. The Harvester Pub served up an excellent meal.

Sandra and Ted Dear - walk leaders



New walkers welcome!
Call Bob on 01926 315890



Watch Out the Snails Are Coming!

When the weather is warm and bright
The snail sneaks off to dodge the light
Hides in the shade and stays out of sight
And those who love their garden plot
Their veggie patch and bedding plant pot
Breathe a sigh of relief, as it's hot
And they know the snails aren't coming.

But when they hear the raindrops pound
See heavy clouds, hear plip-plop sounds
Water dropping on sodden ground
They will fear the gastropod army
That will come and drive them quite barmy,
Chewing soft leaves, completely and calmly
Watch out the snails are coming!

No longer shy, they come out of their shell
Slithering in formation, their ranks soon swell
Blazing a trail, a trail of gel
Sliding in places dark and forbidden
Forging on, unwanted, unbidden
Devouring plants, both seen and hidden
Watch out the snails are coming!

Brilliant minds can send ships into space,
Solve a complex and baffling case,
AI is launched at gathering pace,
But those minds need to further evolve,
This devastating devouring to resolve
For wet day woes to someday dissolve
And to stop the snails from coming!

Ellie Hucklesby



This month's charity is:



In these times of crisis, people in life-and-death situations need our help. The DEC's mission is to save, protect and rebuild lives by working with the communities affected. They bring together 15 leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently in times of humanitarian crisis overseas. The DEC is pivotal in co-ordinating the UK public's response to overseas disasters, getting aid to people who need it, fast.



Beyond the Pew Podcast!

Creativity knows no bounds at St MM's and now the younger generation are getting in on the act. Jacob and Jack (both 13 years old) work together to produce 'Beyond the Pew', a podcast in which they interview members of the congregation about their roles in our lovely church community. Here's what Jack has to say:

Over the podcast's first 4 months, it has gained incredible traction among people in the church community and from elsewhere. Every episode has gained at least 10 listeners, which is incredible for a small startup with no social media presence to advertise it. We are so lucky to have 'Spotify for Creators' in our repertoire: a platform which makes it free and easy to publish our content. Our audience has been accepting of times of hardship, whether it be a sore throat or a schedule pushed back due to holidays. We hope you can be patient as we take a longer break over the summer, but if you want to listen to the first 5 episodes, scan the QR code below. Enjoy!

Jack



Ringling Out



One of the traditional social events in the calendar of a bell-ringer is the annual bell-ringing outing, an event that we've been lucky enough to be able to revive at Lillington after the Covid years, if in a rather reduced format.

In my early days of ringing, in the last century, an outing took the band, with friends, out of the home diocese, often to a lovely region such as the Cotswolds, or the Welsh borders, or round Bredon Hill. Beautiful towns like Stamford, or the cities of Oxford and Cambridge offered many towers within walking distance, with the hire of a coach meaning everyone could concentrate on the ringing/lunchtime refreshments rather than the driving! Generally outings provided a "grab" or two for most of the band – ie a chance to ring at a tower not visited before. The length of the ropes or the difficult access sometimes gave us less than pleasant surprises!

With the band slowing down a bit with age, many with less experience than in the past, and most of us with less energy, we've adapted the concept in recent years, but are quite happy with our 'mini-outings.' On May 17th this year, we first met at the Nag's Head in Henley in Arden, for a fortifying sandwich. I still managed to trip on a protruding chair leg, even after a lime and soda, so goodness knows what would have happened if I'd partaken of the traditional ringers' beverage!

We worked off our lunch getting up the tower of the main Henley church and mastering its bells, with rather long ropes but a lovely sound. The 'surprise' church in Henley is the beautiful little St Nicholas, Beaudesert, just down a lane from the High St. The sun came out at exactly the right moment to show off the Norman portal arch at its best; the bells were light and eminently 'ringable' and the church and churchyard had plenty to keep non-ringers occupied.

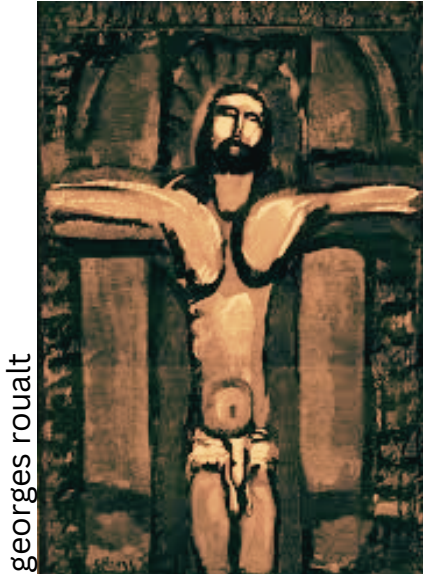
The band became quite animated at our final stopping place which was, of course, the wonderful Henley Ices ice cream parlour! Whatever the flavour or kind of cone, everyone agreed it was the perfect end to a really enjoyable afternoon, combining good food and fellowship with some different bells, in lovely, but not distant surroundings!

Barbara Howes



Earlier this year, I joined a men's group. We meet 3 out of 4 Tuesdays each month for walks, activities, visits etc. One Tuesday a month, we meet at someone's house for a bible discussion. The group leader recently suggested that we come with our favourite bible quote or passage and then talk about what it meant to them. I chose part of the **1 Corinthians 13** passage on love:

this is LOVE



‘Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.’ (v 4-7)

It was suggested that a loved one's name could be used instead of love/it for added emphasis. I am a firm believer that love should be at the root of all our decisions and how we resolve our problems. When facing all the obstacles and challenges of life, love will always be the answer!

Roger Bannister

Roger attends the Mirth Men's Group which is based at St Paul's Church in Leamington.

Good News



A little while ago, our lovely parishioner Doreen was 95! Here she is celebrating her birthday in style with William and Cerys! Congratulations Doreen!



LOVE LILLINGTON APPEAL FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Our Church Community Initiative : Love Lillington – Prayer – Money – Action - has been running since 2016 and everyone involved is so grateful to be part of Love Lillington. We can't really believe we are almost 10 years old and will celebrate that milestone anniversary in 2026!

WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF NEW PEOPLE FOR OUR TEAM!

As a Love Lillington Action Volunteer you will be a visible part of our projects, bringing hope and transformation directly into the lives of those who need it - with just a few hours of effort. The very positive feedback we receive urges us to move on in God's love - continuing to love our community. Working together as a team is rewarding and getting to know each other better outside the church environment is a real bonus.

If you are considering volunteering the time it will take is very much up to the individual. When professional referrals come in, the job requested is assessed and if considered manageable the details are put out to the volunteer team by email. If you have some time, and your talents fit the request, then you respond but if it is not something you can manage at that particular time it is fine to leave it until something else comes along that suits you.



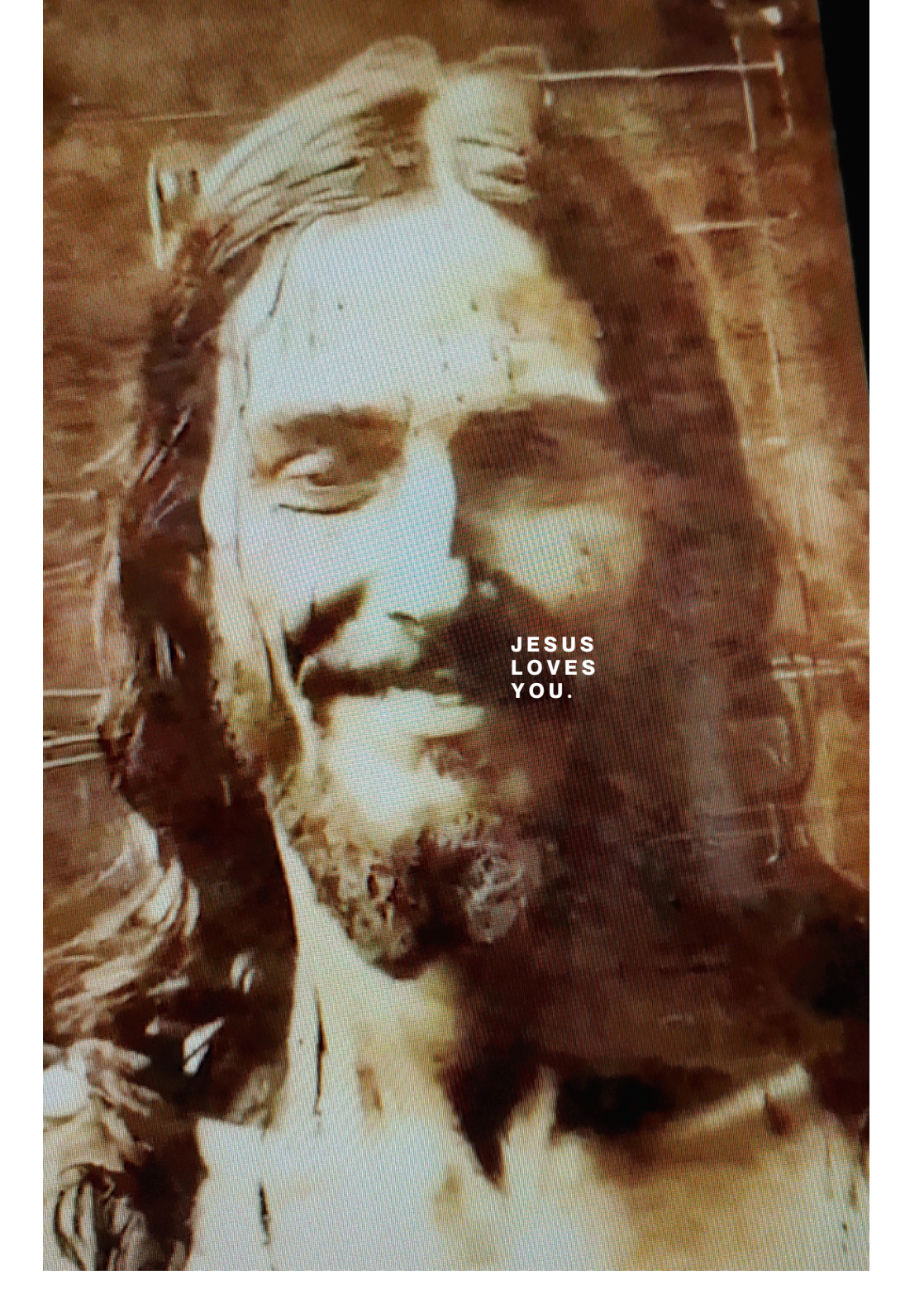
Here's What Our Volunteers Say...

Ellie : I like volunteering for LL because it's a way of contributing to the wider community. I like that we respond to needs that are referred to us rather than trying to find out for ourselves. It's also a good way to work with others in the volunteer team.

Trisha : I feel very privileged to be able to work as a Love Lillington volunteer in our local community. For me it represents a very simple but highly effective way of putting my faith into action. As I've said before, Love Lillington was one of the things that stood out to me when William was first looking at the parish. I have also appreciated the opportunity to spread the word about Love Lillington to former work colleagues and friends and have been glad to pass on their donations of furniture and household goods.

Dave : Volunteering with Love Lillington is a great experience. Every now and then requests come through and these usually consist of simple garden clearances or other DIY jobs that clients are unable to do themselves. This can be down to physical or mental illness, combined sometimes with a lack of confidence and/or lack of tools. It's easy to forget how some tasks you take in your stride are for others almost impossible without help. It's nice to be able to drop in with a small team to perhaps open up an outside space that has become overgrown or hang curtains or assemble furniture and help establish a nicer home. In the process you get to chat. This has given me an insight into the daily struggles of our local community. However small, practical assistance and some human contact can make a real positive difference to people's lives.

To get involved speak to Christine Butler (07963 229756)
j.butler1christine@gmail.com



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St Mary Magdalene's

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Saturday 18th October
7.30 pm



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Michael King on the organ

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To find out more, please
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crosstalk@lillingtonparishchurch.org



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From The Church Records - June and July

Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
		Karma Aston Beryl Barnes

Sunday Worship in September

7 Sept Trinity 12	9.30am 11.15am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (in church & online) All Age Communion (in church) Evening Service (in church)
14 Sept Trinity 13	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All and shared lunch (in church)
21 Sept Trinity 14	9.30am 11.15am	Holy Communion (in church & online) Worship for All (in church)
28 Sept Trinity 15	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 3, 10, 17 & 24 Sept

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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Isabella Moore 07801 108720

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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

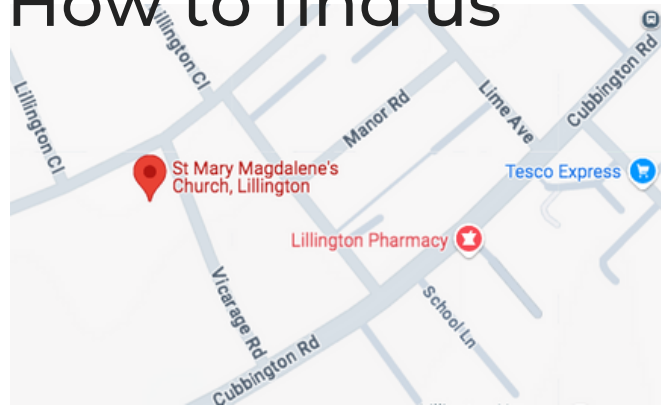
OR you can now join us via our website:

www.lillingtonparishchurch.org/streaming

or follow us on Twitch:

www.twitch.tv/lillington_parish_church

How to find us



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