

SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30 am THE SUNDAY SERVICE

Holy Communion - first Sunday of each month

(Please refer to Diary on page 8 for details of all Services as arrangements may vary).

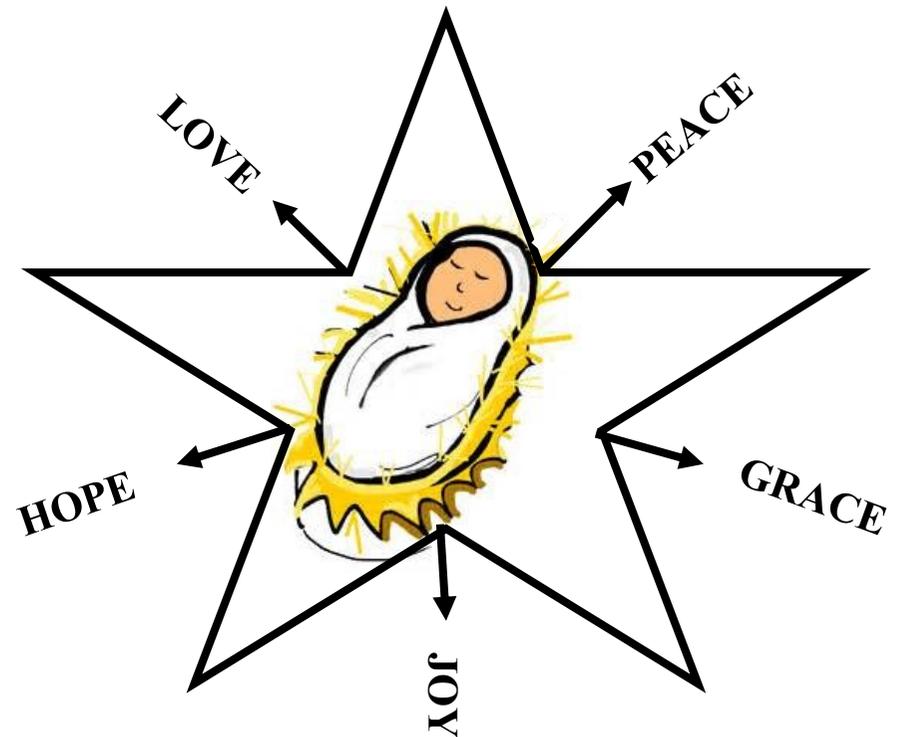
WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Monday	5.00 - 6.00pm 6.00 - 7.15pm	Rainbows (5-7 years) at Radford Road Brownies (7-10 years) at Radford Road
Tuesday	2.30 pm 7.00 - 8.30pm	Friendship Circle Guides (10-15 years) at Radford Road
Wednesday	10.30am 12.30pm	Coffee Morning Wednesday Lunch alternating with Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship at 1.30 pm.
Thursday	2.00pm 7.00 - 8.30pm	Film Club (monthly) Scouts (10½-14 years) at the Scout Cabin, Trinity Street
Friday	6.30 - 8.00pm 7.00 - 8.00pm 7.00 - 8.30pm	Cub Scouts (8-10½ years) at Radford Road Beaver Scouts (6-8 years) at Radford Road Explorer Scouts (14-18 years) at the Scout Cabin, Trinity Street
Saturday	9.00 - 11.00am 10.00am	The Big Breakfast (monthly on 2 nd . Saturday) Christians Together in Leamington Ramblers (monthly)

Radford Road Church web site: www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk

Radford Road Church Leamington Spa CV31 1NF

Magazine



Dec. 2015/Jan. 2016

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

To the family and friends of Radford Road Church,
 Here we are already in 'Advent' and this is the time in the Church year when we anticipate the Lord's coming. In fact the word 'advent' comes from the Latin 'adventus' meaning 'coming'. For early Christians though, this advent was a time of preparation for baptisms, but by the sixth century the coming which Christians were celebrating was not Christ's first coming, but very definitely, his second coming, as Lord of all.
 They foresaw the day when the Christ Child born to us, would return to reign on earth as he reigns in heaven.



"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
 And the government will rest on His shoulders;
 And His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
 Eternal Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Prince of Peace is a title ascribed to Jesus. In a world filled with violence and hate it is difficult to see how Jesus could be the Prince of Peace, and yet that is what we, as Christians, believe. The Hebrew word for peace, "shalom", is often used in reference to an appearance of calm and tranquillity of individuals, groups, and nations, but the Bible envisions that peace coming through the deeper reconciliation between God and all of creation.

It is this peace that Jesus came to bring about, as the apostle Paul writes, 'Therefore, since we have been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' (Romans 5:1).

It is this that enables us to have ultimate peace, a security of knowing that our souls are at peace with the Lord of all creation. But there is another sense in which we look to Jesus as the Prince of Peace, because one day that Prince will be acknowledged as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and on that day His peace will extend over all the earth as the waters cover the sea.

So in the midst of your busyness this Christmas take the time to reflect on Jesus as the Prince of Peace who came to reconcile us to God, let that truth be planted deep within, and give thanks to God as we come towards Christmas, for sending us Jesus whose peace will one day extend over all the earth.

In the book of Revelation, John gives us this great prayer of the early church: "Come, Lord Jesus".

In this advent season we pray it again: "Come Lord Jesus".

When we look at news that breaks the heart, "Come, Lord Jesus", when we see brokenness in our own relationships, "Come, Lord Jesus", when we face the pain of loved ones close to us, "Come, Lord Jesus".

For "of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end" (Isaiah 9:7).

With the love of Christ Jesus,

James

MINISTER (Methodist)	Rev. Andy Laird	andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk	426084
MINISTER (URC)	Rev. James Church	jamesichurch@hotmail.com	733265
ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret Bull		716625
CHURCH TREASURER	Tina Wise		430561
ORGANIST	Margaret Height		313027
MID-WEEK WORSHIP	Jane Grunfeld	02476	696700
WEDNESDAY LUNCH	Veronica Brown		429465
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	Margaret Height Ruth Eyles		313027 771834
PROPERTY COMMITTEE	Ken Robertson		422296
RAINBOWS	Bridget Halpin		426419
BROWNIES	Bridget Halpin		426419
GUIDES	Rebecca Williams	07708	915277
BEAVER SCOUTS	Ian Davis	02476	457822
CUB SCOUTS	Janet Doody		424048
SCOUTS	Graham Robbins		772956
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Mark Reading	07845	125764
GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Graham Martin		858413
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie Carrier	carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk	427451
CARETAKER	Pat Langley		311486

ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Dec 6	Joan Bicknell	Ruth & John Eyles	Jessie Lawson	Kath
Dec 13	Sue Darlison	Brenda & Alan Watts	Valerie Douglas	Rosemary
Dec 20	Rosemary Moore	Janice Dean & Veronica Brown		Margaret
Dec 27	Ann Blower	Sally Cligg & Jean Young		
Jan 3	Veronica Brown	Jane Grunfeld & Joyce Limmagine		Margaret
Jan 10	Julia Morris	John & Ruth Eyles		Hazel
Jan 17	Joan Bicknell	Bridget Halpin & Julia Morris		Tony
Jan 24	Sue Darlison	Brenda & Alan Watts	Friendship Circle	Kath
Jan 31	Rosemary Moore	Veronica Brown & Sally Cligg	Rosemary Moore	Rosemary
Feb 7	Ann Blower	Jean Young & Janice Dean		Margaret
Feb 14	Sue Darlison	Julia Morris & Joyce Limmagine	Gill & Derek Hubbard	Hazel

Would the first person on the Coffee Rota please bring 2 pints of milk and the second bring biscuits. Thank you!

We thank all those who have promised flowers for the church and also thank the

PRAYER LINE

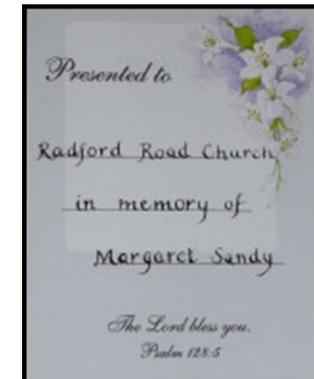
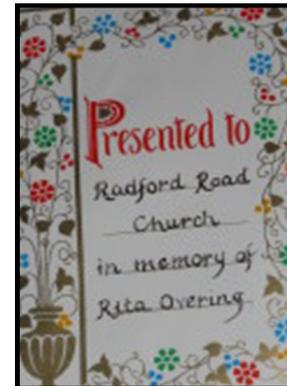
If you have a prayer request call **07594526888** and leave a message on our answer machine. Alternatively you can email prayer requests to **rrchurchpray@hotmail.co.uk** or speak with Jane Grunfeld or Hazel Hobbs. Our prayer group at the church will commit to praying for those requests.

Marjorie Carrier would welcome your contributions and suggestions for the February Magazine by Sunday Jan 24th at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk or phone 427451.

FAMILY NEWS



Margaret Height, our Church organist, is recovering well from her recent hip replacement operation. We all miss her and send her our love and prayers. We are grateful to Joan Parks for playing on some Sundays during Margaret's absence, to Dr. Denys Hill for playing and preaching on November 29th and to John Eyles for using the Digi-box when an organist has not been available. Congratulations to Andy and Ann's son who was married at the end of November and to the granddaughter of Evelyn Darlison on her recent marriage. John Farrington has been missed at church over recent weeks. He had a fall at home but is recovering slowly. On Sunday November 15th the Bibles, given in memory of Rita Overing and of Margaret Sandy, were dedicated and it was good to have Rita's family worshipping with us on this special occasion. Each Bible has a presentation label inside and these were all hand written by Ken Robertson.



As we prepare for Christmas and as the nights draw in and the weather turns colder, we send greetings, good wishes and blessings to all our elderly and housebound friends and to those who care for them, and assure them of our thoughts and prayers..

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The service on 20th December will be 9 lessons and carols. Please let Andy, or an Elder, know your favourite carol by 13th December and Andy will try to include as many as possible of the congregation's choices in the service.

OUR COVER PICTURE



When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among people,
to make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman (1899–1981)

ENVELOPE SCHEME

The Church has a weekly envelope offering scheme which is a great way of supporting the Church by providing a regular income that the Church can use to budget for the following year. If you are a tax payer then the Church can collect the tax back on the amount you have given.

There is also the option to pay by standing order.

If you are interested in supporting the Church with regular giving via the envelope scheme please contact Bridget Halpin.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY MORNING - JAN 4TH

What Child is this?



It is wonderful to be able to say that the children's activity mornings have now become a regular feature of our church's calendar and Monday 4th of January sees our third Christmas one. We are taking as our theme "What child is this?" and focusing on the gift of a new life in the shape of our Saviour born a baby in Bethlehem that first Christmas Day. We will try to help the children understand that God sent his son as a baby so he could experience exactly what it was like to live as a person on earth – even to fleeing to Egypt to be safe from King Herod. As always we will be hoping as many of you as possible will be able to help on the morning and that everyone will keep the occasion and its participants in their prayers. Please also look out for a list of needs in the vestibule.

Jane

REQUEST

If you are thinking of buying a new DVD player, please consider donating your old working model to our church. We are finding that old DVDs, which we often use at Wednesday Lunch, are sometimes incompatible with our present player.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

To mark 70 years since the founding of the United Nations, Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, together with several other iconic monuments, buildings, statues, bridges and other international landmarks, was bathed in blue light on Saturday 24th October.

Methodist Central Hall has a special significance in the history of the UN having hosted the first ever meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 1946.

Central Hall, Westminster, is holding a unique 'UNEARTH Exhibition on various dates between 13th October and 11th December 2015 to celebrate the achievements and history of the UN over the past 70 years.

The exhibition was previously on display in New York, Brussels, The Hague, Verdun and Lisbon.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

The "Market Place" evening at Christchurch, Priory Terrace on Nov. 11th was a great success. Seventy five people learned about 18 Christian community projects that are taking place in the town. Watch this space for more about these in the months ahead.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FOLLOW THE STAR

Saturday 5th December at 12 noon. (35 minutes)

Come to Christchurch Gardens and listen to Telford and Clapham Terrace school children singing, acting and dancing and the Royal Spa Band playing. Later enjoy hot refreshments at the Baptist Church. The Deputy Mayor, MP, and the Chair of Warwick District Council will be attending.

GIFT WRAPPING IN THE PRIORS

The evenings of Thursday 10th and Thursday 17th December in the Royal Priors. Please phone Andrew Emm (01926 311695) if you would like to help with wrapping parcels or chatting to people.

UNITED SERVICE

Sunday 24th January at Dale Street Methodist Church at 6.30pm at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, (18th to 25th January 2016). The speaker will be Phil Knox from Youth for Christ.

CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS



Saturday December 12th 2015 9.45am for 10am
YARNINGDALE COMMON,
Leaders: Dave and Glenys Bishop Tel. 01926 424484

Saturday January 16th 2016 9.45am for 10am
CHESTERTON

Leaders: Brian and Janice Austin Tel. 01926 428635
Further details will be available on the vestibule notice board.



*The Silent Night
Memorial Chapel
consecrated on
August 15th 1937*

SILENT NIGHT

It was the night before Christmas 1818, in the little village of Oberndorf, Austria. Josef Mohr, the vicar, had just read the Christmas passage from Luke, Chapter 2, when a few verses, inspired by the reading, came into his mind. It would be very pleasant, he thought, if the verses could be used at the Christmas Eve service, so he called on the organist and handed them to him.

Franz Gruber, the organist, composed a tune to which the verses could be sung and that was how one of the greatest carols, 'Silent Night', was created.

That evening, the organ broke down but, not to be outdone, the vicar and the organist sang the hymn as a duet. There the story might have ended had it not been

for the organ. When the instrument was mended, the repairer sat down to test it and played the tune composed by Gruber. He liked it and asked for a copy which he took back to his home town. There, a ladies' choir added it to their repertoire and it was included when they sang in other towns as well.

Gradually it became known by more and more people and it increased in popularity until today it must surely be the most frequently sung Christmas carol. Moreover, it is sung, not only in the language in which it was first written, but it has been translated into others too, so that, all over the world, people are united at Christmas in singing 'Silent Night' in their own language.

FILM CLUB

The next Film Club will be on
Thursday January 21st at 2.00pm
when you can enjoy
"Sabrina"

Starring Harrison Ford, Julia Ormond
and Greg Kinnear

The warmest, romantic triangle ever!

**Tea and cakes will be served
£2.00 per person**

**Please note: There will not be a
Film Club in December**



NATIVITY SET EXHIBITION

This year Abbey Hill
URC, Kenilworth will
be hosting this

exhibition which was started at
Radford Road Church in 2012.
Do go and see it if you are able.

Tue 1st Dec to Sun 6th Dec
from 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Sat 5th Dec from 10am to 5.00pm
Free entry - All are welcome to view
this interesting display of nativity
sets from all around the world.

FROM THE JOINT PUBLIC ISSUES TEAM

Dear Friends,

You may have seen that the House of Lords has asked the Government to think again on its proposals for radical reductions to tax credits next April. The Churches informed the debate with briefings and careful reflections from the Bishops. The role of churches is to ensure that the circumstances of the poorest are at the forefront of lawmakers' minds.

The recent vote was about short-term cuts. The **Welfare Reform and Work Bill** going through parliament contains much larger cuts, as well as important changes to the core principles of the benefits system.

Benefits were intended to provide families that need support with enough to have a basic standard of living. The Bill proposes that for many – mainly families with children – this link between their basic needs and the support offered is broken. We know that children raised in families without enough money are more likely to die as infants, do worse at school, experience more disease and illness, and go on to die younger.

Together with our partner Churches, we will be asking the Government to reconsider its proposals and we'd like to invite you to join us.

The campaign and report will be launched very soon, but in the meantime we have created a set of resources for Church use.

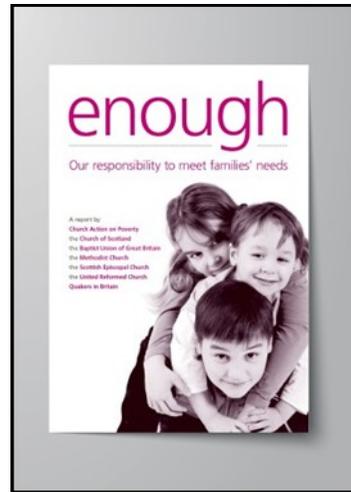
These include:

- an introduction to the campaign and information about how you can help.
- a short video explaining why this matters right now.
- a bible reflection on the theme of 'enough'.
- a prayer.
- a specially-written hymn.

Please check out the resources (www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/enough-resources/) share them and use them as widely as you can.

Best wishes

The Joint Public Issues Team



THE LORD'S PRAYER BANNED ADVERT

The Church of England has said it is "disappointed and bewildered" by the refusal of leading UK cinemas to show an advert featuring the Lord's Prayer as it could offend those of differing faiths and no faith. It had hoped the 60-second film would be screened UK-wide before Christmas ahead of the new Star Wars film, "The Force Awakens".

The advert features the Christian prayer being recited or sung by a variety of people including refugees, a grieving son, weightlifters at a gym, a sheep farmer, a gospel choir and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The advert was passed uncut by the British Board of Film Classification and given a "U" certificate, as well as receiving clearance from the Cinema Advertising Authority. However, the Digital Cinema Media (DCM) agency, which handles British film advertising for the major cinema chains, Odeon, Cineworld and Vue, refused to show the advert because it believed it would risk upsetting or offending audiences. In a statement, DCM said it had a policy of not accepting political or religious advertising content in its cinemas.

It said that "some advertisements - unintentionally or otherwise - could cause offence to those of differing political persuasions, as well as to those of differing faiths and indeed of no faith," and that "in this regard, DCM treats all political or religious beliefs equally".

The banned advert can be seen on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxgwWzh0h-w&feature=youtu.be>.

What do you think?



**HOUSE GROUP
BIBLE STUDY**

each Friday at
135, Leam Terrace
at 7.30pm

The House Group would be
delighted to
welcome others who would like to
share in the evening.
The Group will be studying the
Book of Esther.



**THE NEXT
BIG BREAKFASTS**
are on Dec.12th and Jan. 9th
at 9.00am

Come along and bring your friends
to our Big Breakfasts.

Proceeds to our new
Mission Project

PRAYING TOGETHER IN DECEMBER

A monthly Prayer Diary has been created to encourage the Church family to focus prayers on a daily basis, together with the concerns raised in the weekly news sheet.

1st	The House of Light and Hope	16	Mary Coles
2nd	Jean Innes	17	Margaret Height
3rd	Clive Fowle's work	18	Revd. James Church
4th	Revd. Andy Laird	19	Peter & Kenny (very ill in Tanzania)
5th	Hilda & Ken	20	Kingsley & Anne Pilling
6th	Jessie Lawson	21	The Bible Study Group
7th	Mid-Week Worship/ Wed. Lunch	22	The Film Club
8th	Valerie	23	John Farrington
9th	Uniformed Organisations	24	The Night Shelter
10th	Jane	25	The Elders of the Church
11th	The Friendship Circle	26	Wendy
12th	Big Breakfast	27	Nena
13th	Faith Forum	28	Gill & Derek Hubbard
14th	Joyce Hill	29	Pat
15th	Mary, Julie & Paul	30	Clarice
		31	The Food Bank

You are invited to take a pebble from the basket on the Table of Remembrance, sit or stand quietly and concentrate on your particular concern. Then hold or stroke your pebble – feel your hurt, worry, loneliness, pain, guilt, unhappiness or anxiety flowing into your stone. Feel it warm in your hand. If you are praying for someone else, feel your love and compassion flowing into your pebble.

When you are ready, leave your pebble at the cross of Jesus. Leave it with your concerns, so that Jesus can deal with it. Then go – knowing that Jesus loves and cares about you.

There is also a Book of Prayer. Any situation entered in the book will be prayed for at Friday Bible Study and included in the monthly Prayer Diary.

The West Midlands Joint Public Issues Team Baptist, Methodist and URC

CLIMATE CHANGE; POVERTY; IMMIGRATION

Have you any stories about the above issues, either directly or through people you know, – personal experiences of what you know has been happening?

You may like:

- to send your personal and individual stories to the Birmingham Methodist District.
- to use church or house meetings and make storytelling about these issues the main item on the agenda.
- to arrange special meetings for storytelling in a house or at church or in a cafe or pub over a drink or mug of tea.

We all have stories to tell.

Please post your stories to: Birmingham Methodist District Office,

36, Amesbury Road, Birmingham, B13 8LE;

or email: -office@birminghammethodist.org.uk

or post them on our story telling face book page – www.facebook.com/WMJPT

Please let us have them by the end of January 2016.

When we've received your stories, and we hope there will be a lot of them, we shall, of course, read them(!) and get some help with sorting them out to see what they are telling us. We will then come back to you with the findings, above all about what they suggest we should do next as churchgoers.

In all of this we are working with you to foster the kind of society that is a little more like the Kingdom Jesus proclaimed, worked and died for, marked by the qualities of compassion, caring, fairness, justice, honesty, equality, respect and tolerance.

Ian Howarth

Chair of Birmingham Methodist District

FINANCES – 2015

Income: September Collections etc. (4 weeks)	£1497.04
October Collections etc. (4 weeks)	£1686.96
Bequest from Rita Overing for Church Funds	£1000.00
	Tina Wise

DECEMBER DIARY 2015

Tues	1	2.30pm	Friendship Circle
Wed	2	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. James Church
Fri	4	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	6	10.30am	The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	8	2.30pm	The Friendship Circle
Wed	9	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Christmas Songs of Praise from Stratford upon Avon
Fri	11	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	12	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	13	10.30am	The Christingle Service led by the Revd James Church
Wed	16	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. John Carrier
Fri	18	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	20	10.30am	Service of Readings & Carols led by the Revd. Andy Laird
FRI	25	10.00AM	CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE led by the Revd. James Church (Note time of service)
Sun	27	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Dr. Denys Hill

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Many thanks to all who filled boxes, donated money or gave goods for Operation Christmas Child. We sent 33 boxes and £72 towards transport costs. This included 9 boxes, together with gift-aided transport contributions, donated on line.

KNITTED GLOVES, SCARVES AND HATS

A vast quantity of gloves, scarves and hats have been knitted for the clients of our Night Shelter by members and friends of Radford Road Church. The garments were dedicated at a service on November 15th. As the nights get colder please pray for the vulnerable people who often sleep on the streets of our town and who are very grateful for the gifts we have given.

Thank you to all our knitters.

Your time, effort and beautiful knitting is much appreciated.

JANUARY DIARY 2016

Sun	3	10.30am	The Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Andy Laird
Mon	4	9.30am	Children's Activity Morning
Wed	6	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by "New Beginnings" with the Revd. James Church.
Fri	8	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	9	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	10	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church
Wed	13	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. Peter Powers
Fri	15	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	17	10.30am	The Sunday Service (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity) led by Mr Paul Tennyson, a Methodist Local Preacher
Wed	20	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch: Members afternoon. Share your favourite music, film, poems etc. with others.
Thurs	21	2.00pm	Film Club "Sabrina"
Fri	22	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	24	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church
		6.30pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at Dale St.
Wed	27	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. James Church
Fri	29	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	31	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Mr Trevor Pethick, a Methodist Local Preacher

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Now once more
The year has turned
The advent candle
Long since burned
Hearts darken
As we count the cost
And the season's spirit
Is all now lost

But it need not
All be dark and gloom
Light can again
Illuminate the room
So here is a philosophy
For all of us
God is for life
Not just for Christmas