

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).

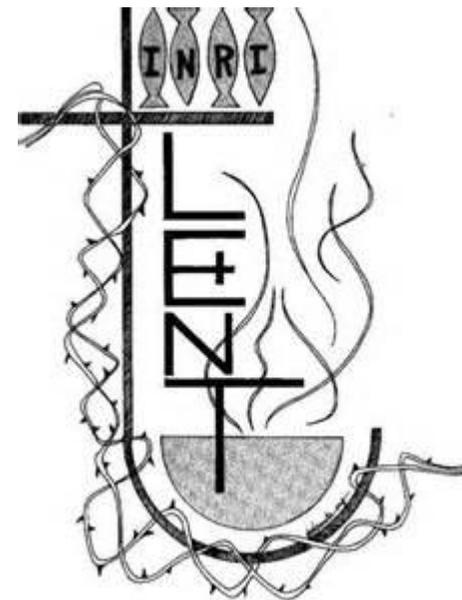
WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

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

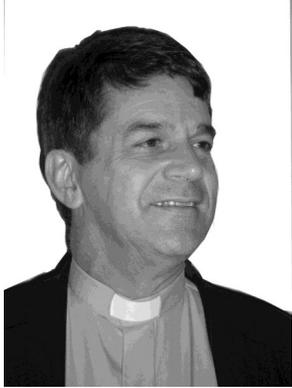
Radford Road Church
Leamington Spa
CV31 1NF

Magazine



February 2016

THE MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends,
We are still finding odd Christmas ornaments and things around the house and I have to sit down to write about Lent, with Easter just around the corner. It feels quite strange to be reflecting upon our Lord's first few days of ministry, having just got over thinking about his first few days of life.

Traditionally, during Lent, we recall the 40 days and nights Jesus spent in a Judean desert, fasting, praying and being tempted. Today, many mark this time by giving up something for Lent. Do you? Chocolate? Cream cakes? Wine?

In his novel *Quarantine* Jim Crace tells the story of four travellers who enter the desert at the same time as Jesus, and as the book unfolds we see the reasons why they each need to fast (only by day though!) and pray for their souls as their stories are told. As they amuse and scare each other around a campfire each night they talk of seeing another faint figure in the distance – a Galilean who, it has been said, has power to do miracles..... (I have one copy of the book I can lend).

Yet Jesus didn't go into the wilderness to try and amend for a sordid human past. He didn't have one! He went in to cement his humanity and divinity, to secure a heavenly future – for himself and us. For in defeating the temptations of the evil one he fulfils the law and prophets, proving his fitness to serve as the Son of God and to be the Saviour of the World.

As we journey through Lent we are not advised to fast for 40 days. But there is much we can do. Perhaps, instead of giving up something, you could determine to start doing something: spend more time in prayer or in Bible reading, or find a way to give practical help to someone you know who needs it, but perhaps wouldn't ask.

However you choose to mark the season of Lent, remember Christ's inner strength and determination to hold fast to the word and name of God. Let his great strength inspire you to do great things in his name.

Peace to you,
Andy

MINISTER (Methodist)	Rev. Andy Laird andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk
MINISTER (URC)	Rev. James Church jamesichurch@hotmail.com
ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret Bull
CHURCH TREASURER	Tina Wise
ORGANIST	Margaret Height
MID-WEEK WORSHIP	Jane Grunfeld
WEDNESDAY LUNCH	Veronica Brown
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	Margaret Height Ruth Eyles
PROPERTY COMMITTEE	Ken Robertson
RAINBOWS	Bridget Halpin
BROWNIES	Bridget Halpin
GUIDES	Rebecca Williams
BEAVER SCOUTS	Matthew Drinkhall
CUB SCOUTS	Janet Doody
SCOUTS	Graham Robbins
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Mark Reading-Jones
GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Graham Martin
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie Carrier carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk
CARETAKER	Pat Langley

ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Feb 7	Ann Blower	Jean Young & Janice Dean		Margaret
Feb 14	Veronica Brown	Julia Morris & Joyce Limmage	Gill & Derek Hubbard	Hazel
Feb 21	Julia Morris	Jane Grunfeld & Bridget Halpin	John & Ruth Eyles	Tony
Feb 28	Joan Bicknell	John & Ruth Eyles	Julia Morris	Kath
Mar 6	Sue Darlison	Brenda & Alan Watts	Valerie Douglas	Rosemary
Mar 13	Rosemary Moore	Veronica Brown & Jean Young	Bella Major	Margaret

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 arrangers for using their time and talents in this way.

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 **rchurchpray@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 March Magazine by Sunday Feb 21st at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk .

FAMILY NEWS



Geoff Cook had a tunnel carpal operation on his right hand in December and is awaiting a similar operation on his left hand.

Ray Brown has had a knee replacement operation and is progressing well.

Fran Thompson is awaiting a hip replacement operation and anticipates having the surgery soon. Both she and her husband have been unwell recently.

Mary Turner passed away on January 7th. She had moved to Bristol from her home in Brunswick Street six months ago so that she could be near her daughter, Lyn. We remember the whole family in our prayers at this sad time.

Thelma Richards still remains very poorly in Warwick Hospital after suffering a heart attack and a stroke.

Anne Pilling is awaiting further abdominal surgery and plans are being made for **Kingsley** to be looked after in a care home during Anne's surgery and recuperation.

Ralph Patterson had a fall whilst delivering his Christmas cards. Fortunately help was at hand. Ralph hurt the bridge of his nose in the accident.

Gill Hubbard is in hospital again after having another fall at home.

Joyce Limmage has recently had a hernia operation followed by further complications. She writes, "Having spent almost a month in hospital, I hope to see you all before too long. Thank you for your prayers and thoughts and for James' visits, all of which have been of much comfort to me".

Congratulations to **Rebecca, daughter of Anne and Andy Laird**, whose engagement was announced on Christmas day.

Roy and Jenny Buchanan have recently moved to Tunbridge Wells. We shall miss them at Radford Road but they will continue to receive the Church Magazine by email. They write: "We would like to thank the people of Radford Road Church for their fellowship and friendship during the year or so that we worshipped with you. It was a very good experience for us and we are very grateful to everyone concerned".

We are delighted that **Margaret Height** is worshipping in church again and playing the organ following her surgery. Margaret writes, "I have missed you all while I have been convalescing following hip replacement surgery, which, I am pleased to say, has been very successful. Thank you for your prayers and many expressions of loving concern, get well cards and visits. My thanks to our Ministers, James and Andy, for their support and to everyone, especially Joan Parks, who has provided music in my absence".

Both **Hugh Smith and his brother, Kit**, have been very unwell recently.

Hugh writes, "I would like to thank Veronica Brown for her help when I was ill and Kit was in hospital. Many thanks to James Church for visiting Kit in hospital and also later when we were both at home. Also a thank you to our friend, Elsa, who calls in to make sure we have enough to eat. We are both grateful for the visits from Kit's friends at Lillington Free Church. I have been to hospital and now feel a little better. Kit is also getting around quite well.

Please keep all these people in your thoughts and prayers.

OUR COVER PICTURE



Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is often marked by fasting, both from food and from festivities. Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion.

Today many people use Lent as a time to give up certain foods or habits, but they also use it as a time for prayer and reflection and a time to walk closer with God.

A Lenten Poem by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us, a time to let the events get up and walk around in us, a time to intensify our living unto Christ, a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts, a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and listen to his Word, a time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us, a time to ponder and a time to wonder....

Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God! Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think, for thoughts come unbidden. Perhaps we're afraid to face our future knowing our past. Give us courage, O God, to hear your Word and to read our living into it. Give us the trust to know we're forgiven and give us the faith to take up our lives and walk.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY MORNING HELD ON JAN. 4TH What Child Is This?



Thank you everyone for your prayers and practical support, which made our children's morning a successful and fun time. We had 15 children present. Unfortunately tummy bugs and chicken pox kept some away. We told the stories of Mary and Joseph fleeing with the baby Jesus into Egypt and of how, when older, Jesus went with his family to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. Crafts included making a life size picture of themselves, baking chocolate mangers and also nestling a model of

baby Jesus in the crook of a candy stick. The message was, that throughout Jesus' life God was always there and that, as we grow, we can rely on Jesus being close to us at all times.

We already have our Easter morning planned for Maundy Thursday 24th March. Please put a note in your diaries, invite any children you know, and if you haven't done so already, pop in and see what we get up to. *Jane*

Many thanks to Jane, the mastermind behind these special days, and to the team of helpers who turn their hands to a variety of child-centred activities to encourage the children to learn more about Jesus. *Editor*

SPLISH! SPLOSH! IN THE HALL

During the recent, very cold weather water has been condensing on the metal struts on the roof of the hall and as the droplets have fallen the hall users have been getting an unwelcome shower. As the hall is now used by many groups who pay us for the use of it, and as the Night Shelter clients sleep there every Sunday and Wednesday nights, it was imperative that something had to be done urgently to rectify the problem.

Bridget sprang into action and co-opted her nephew, Cameron, to climb the scaffold tower and fix adhesive cloth tape on to the struts. This has stopped the water forming and our hall users are happy.

It was a mammoth physical task which involved working with hands above heads, and we are all very grateful to Bridget and Cameron for this fantastic effort and the hours they put in to complete the task.

Thank you, Bridget and Cameron.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

LOOKING AT THE CHARITY 'CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (C.A.P)'

With a small donation and big faith, John Kirkby started Christians Against Poverty in 1996. He believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help the poor.

In his hometown of Bradford, John set off on the incredible journey of CAP. His faith adventure led him to people crippled by debt; parents who couldn't feed their children, families facing eviction and desperate people living in fear and without hope. He used his expertise to negotiate with creditors, set up budgeting systems and offer a lifeline to those trapped in debt.

John knew that people all over the country were struggling in the same way and he began looking to replicate the work across the UK. With the vital ingredients of a church to partner with, a passionate person to be trained as a debt counsellor and the faith that God would provide, four new CAP centres were opened at the end of 1998.

Since then, CAP has rapidly grown its centre network and provides the best debt help service to those with the very least. CAP started running CAP Money Courses in partnership with local churches to help people budget, save and prevent debt. Our vision is to help answer the national problem of debt by opening a CAP Debt Centre and running a CAP Money Course in every town and city in the UK so anyone can receive CAP's life changing help. Job seeking help and help in fighting addictions such as smoking, drinking and gambling are also available.

John Kirkby says

"I am overwhelmed by what God has done. To see thousands of lives changed every year is truly wonderful. I do believe that God has given us a 21st Century answer to one of the most pressing social needs within society today. Jesus met people's needs with love, compassion and practical help. Our desire is to simply do the same and watch the miracles unfold. Please get involved in this amazing, God inspired ministry."

There is a CAP centre at St Mary' Church, Leamington Spa .

To contact them, for help or to offer support, please phone Church Office on 01926 778505 or go to website capuk.org/debtcentre/63/leamington-spa .



CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS DRAYCOTE WATER.

Saturday February 20th 2016 meet at 9.45am for 10am

Leaders Mike and Anne Bench .
Lunch at The Dun Cow, Dunchurch.

FILM CLUB

The next Film Club will be on **Thursday February 25th at 2.00pm**
when you can enjoy

“Mrs Caldicot’s Cabbage War”

After the death of her domineering husband, downtrodden housewife Thelma Caldicot starts to rebel. First she cuts up her dear departed's golf clubs with a hacksaw. Then she snips the heads off his prize-winning chrysanthemums. But when her son ships her off to the uncaring Twilight Years Rest Home where cabbage is served daily, Mrs Caldicot organizes a revolution amongst the wrinklies.

Tea and cakes will be served £2.00 per person

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

During the service on Sunday January 24th James spoke about the need for everyone in the church to make their contribution to the life of the church by using their talents in a positive way.

Are you able to fulfil any of the following tasks?

We need:

People to offer to do a Bible reading in church on Sunday mornings.

See Margaret Bull

Welcomers to give out Sunday News Sheets.

See Joan Bicknell or Sue Darlison

People to serve tea and coffee after service on Sunday mornings.

See Joan Bicknell or Sue Darlison

People to give money for flowers in church.

See Hazel Hobbs

People to be on the church cleaning rota.

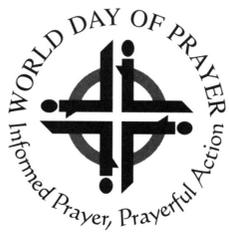
See Ken Robertson

Practical people who are willing and able to turn their hand to simple maintenance jobs around our premises.

See Ken Robertson

THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2016

March 4th 2016 at 2pm



The Women's World Day of Prayer (WWDP) is an amazing event which takes place all round the world on the first Friday of March annually. It is a truly global phenomenon organised by Christian women through committees from the International Committee to the national committees then filtering to the many

thousands of local committees representing women of all denominations of Christian churches worldwide.

This year Leamington WWDP committee has chosen Radford Road Church to host this special international service written by the women of CUBA. The theme is: 'Receive children, receive me.'

The Leamington WWDP Committee members will present the service but the host church is responsible for welcoming the congregation and providing refreshments for everyone after the service.

We hope many of you will book the date and attend the service at our church, men as well, and celebrate this special day with Christians worldwide.

Offers of help for the provision of refreshments and the hosting of the event will be much appreciated. Please contact Margaret Sheldon

HELPING OTHERS

People at Radford Road work quietly and without fuss to help others, both in our community, and overseas. The following activities have been organised by individuals recently.

Margaret Sheldon writes about a Caring and Sharing Christmas Festa which she organised.

"I teach Italian to a small group of people and an outing to a restaurant was suggested for our Christmas treat. I asked them instead to give me £10 each, as the minimum the meal and a drink would cost, and we would have a meal at my home. In the true spirit of giving at this season the money would be used for the benefit of less fortunate people. The government's pledge to give pound for pound to major charities over this period, and the added gift aid allowance, were also a catalyst.

We had a good Italian meal together, which only cost about £15 for seven of us. With the aim of recycling we didn't buy presents for each other but, instead gave something good from home which we no longer wanted. Everyone received a greeting card which I had made using beautiful pictures saved from old cards and I added my greetings in Italian. Two other groups I run added to the total. The £110 we raised means that more than £250 will benefit the essential work of Water Aid and Christian Aid. We had a memorable time at our party, talking and singing in Italian, which we would not have been able to do in public.

FELICE ANNO NUOVO: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Vi Ebanks saves all the 5p coins which accumulate in her purse and regularly gives these to Christian Aid. Her latest contribution amounted to £7.25. This is another idea which others may like to copy.

Jane Grunfeld recently celebrated a birthday and asked her friends to donate money, instead of gifts, to charities of her choice. Among the charities she selected was Radford Road Church (yes, we are a charity), and with that money a new electric carpet sweeper has been purchased. So, next time crumbs are dropped on the vestibule carpet please get out the new carpet sweeper and say a belated Happy Birthday and Thank You to Jane.

Marjorie and John Carrier were invited to talk about our Mission Project to the T4U group which meets in Warwick. The group donated £100 for "The House of Light and Hope".

At the beginning of Advent 2015 Abbey Hill URC, Kenilworth, borrowed the 100 and more nativity sets belonging to **Marjorie and John Carrier** and hosted the Nativity Exhibition which was started at Radford Road Church in 2012.

The exhibition attracted many visitors and school groups. The donations given were divided between their own church, Radford Road and our Mission Project. We are very grateful for the sum of £235 which we received.

Bridget Halpin is a Street Pastor and regularly spends nights helping young clubbers on the streets of Leamington.

Jean Young is a volunteer at our Night Shelter and gives her time and energy to help the homeless and vulnerable people who eat and sleep in our hall.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP OTHERS OR TO RAISE MONEY FOR A GOOD CAUSE?



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 is studying the Book of Esther.

Please see James for further details.



THE NEXT
BIG BREAKFAST
is on Feb. 13th
at 9.00am



Come along and bring your friends and smell the sizzling bacon as you come through the door to our Big Breakfast.

Proceeds to our Mission Project

"The House of Light and Hope".

PRAYING TOGETHER IN FEBRUARY

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 family of Mary Turner	16th	Mary Coles
2nd	Jean Innes	17th	Wendy
3rd	Clive Fowle's work	18th	Revd. James Church
4th	Revd. Andy Laird	19th	Margaret Moore & Chris Johnson
5th	Hilda & Ken Robertson	20th	Kingsley & Anne Pilling
6th	Jessie Lawson	21st	The Bible Study Group
7th	Wed. Lunch & Mid-Week Worship	22nd	The Film Club
8th	Valerie Douglas	23rd	John Farringdon
9th	Uniformed Organisations	24th	Hugh & Kit Smith
10th	Jane Grunfeld & family	25th	The Elders of the Church
11th	The Friendship Circle	26th	Gill & Derek Hubbard
12th	The Faith Forum	27th	The Night Shelter
13th	Big Breakfast	28th	Clarice Thompson
14th	Joyce Hill	29th	Thelma Richards
15th	The House of Light & Hope		

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.

JAMES IS RUNNING THE LONDON MARATHON!

Dear Friends and Supporters,
On Sunday 24th April I will be running the London Marathon. That is 26 miles and 385 yards, and I know I will be feeling every one of those 385 yards at the end there. I am running the London Marathon in memory of Ashley Doughty, I was his friend and minister, and it was a great shock and sadness when he died on Easter Day 2014 (20th April) after being treated over several months for a brain tumour.

The charity Cancer and Leukaemia in Children named after the late Sir Malcolm Sargent. (CLIC Sargent) made a great difference to Ashley's experience of his illness and to his family who supported him through it. I hope that together we can enable this organisation to continue its important work.

So I hope you will encourage me, firstly by sponsoring me, secondly by praying for me (I know I'll need your prayers as I've yet to run more than 14 miles), and thirdly by checking up on me to make sure I've at least tried to maintain some kind of training schedule in the lead up to the event!

With love and thanks for all your encouragement in Christ,
James

Sponsor forms are available if you would like to sponsor and encourage James.



Nearly there, James!



FINANCES – 2015

Income: November Collections etc. (5 weeks)	£1905.20
December Collections etc. (4 weeks)	£1644.54

Tina Wise

FEBRUARY DIARY 2016

Tues	2	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. John Harris
Wed	3	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by: 'The story of Spa water toffee' by Cynthia Stanton
Fri	5	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	7	10.30am	The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Andy Laird
Tues	9	2.00pm	The Friendship Circle - Mrs Margaret Weir
Wed	10	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by Jane Grunfeld.
		2.30pm	Mission & Outreach Planning Meeting
Fri	12	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	13	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	14	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd James Church
Tues	16	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. James Church
Wed	17	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by the first episode of the film 'Jesus' which vividly explores the life and mission of Jesus of Nazareth. Starring Jeremy Sisto as Jesus. The film will be shown each Wednesday during Lent. Every one is welcome to join in as we prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter. If you can't get to the lunch, the film will begin about 1.30pm each Wednesday.
Fri	19	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	21	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Andy Laird
Tues	23	2.00pm	The Friendship Circle - Revd. Margaret Locke-Wheaton
Wed	24	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship: Episode 2 of the film 'Jesus'
Fri	26	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	28	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Miss Betty Blower

A LETTER FROM MARGARET AND CHRIS, THE ORGANISERS OF THE NIGHT SHELTER

Dear All,

This is to thank all the ladies who have knitted the wonderful selection of hats, scarves and gloves for the clients of the Night Shelter. We will give these out over the coming months, and ensure that all our clients have plenty of warmth throughout the winter. Special thanks, too, to Marjorie Carrier who organises this project each year. It is very much appreciated.

The Night Shelter is very busy at the moment but we try to help where we can with the very many different requests.

On a typical evening we have about 30 clients coming to the Shelter and about 12 stay overnight. Recently we had as many as 12 men and 4 women staying overnight. We usually have about 80 different clients coming each month.

Fortunately we are blessed with a wonderful team of volunteers. What makes all this so very satisfying is that our clients let us know how grateful they are for the support given by everyone at the Shelter.

Many thanks again for your continued support of our group.

Yours, Margaret and Chris

This is an on-going project so please continue knitting hats, scarves and gloves so that we can supply the Night Shelter with more warm clothing next Christmas.
Marjorie

CENTENARY OF WELLESBOURNE METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING

This year Wellesbourne Methodist Church is celebrating a hundred years of worship in their present building. Special celebrations throughout the year are being planned to mark this event.

In January 100 scarves, knitted by members and friends of the church, were dedicated and paraded round the village. These will be sent to 'Knit for Kids', a charity which sends warm clothing to children in need throughout the world.

On January 17th there was a Methodist Centenary Circuit Service and a Centenary history display.

Details of future events planned for 2016, including a Centenary Flower Festival on April 24th, can be found on the Wellesbourne church's web site, <http://www.wellesbournemethodistchurch.org.uk/>

We send our greetings to Wellesbourne Methodist Church for this special year.