

## 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).*

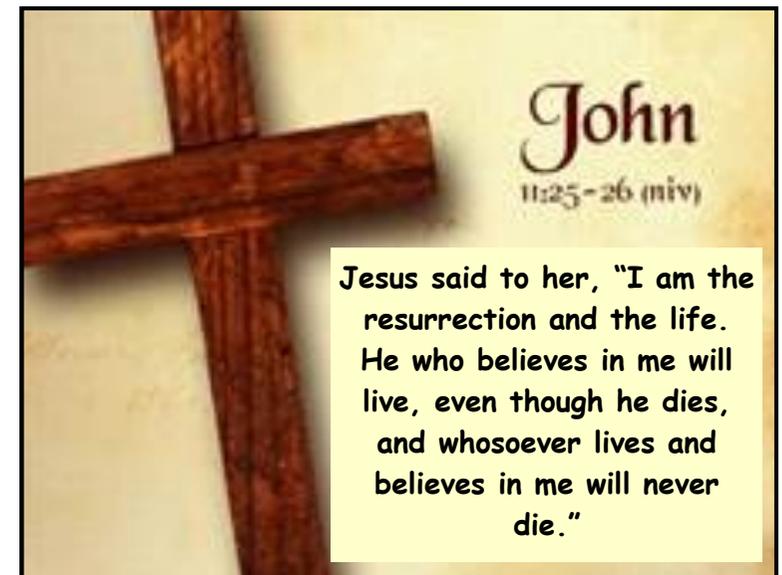
## WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Monday	5.00 - 6.00pm 6.00 - 7.15pm	Rainbows (5-7 years) at Radford Road Brownies (7-10 years) at Radford Road
Tuesday	2.00 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 <sup>nd</sup> . Saturday) Christians Together in Leamington Ramblers (monthly)

Radford Road Church web site: [www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk](http://www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk)

# Radford Road Church Leamington Spa CV31 1NF

## Magazine



# March 2016

## THE MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

As we approach Easter and those realities that we celebrate, I want to look at the ways Paul tells us that the resurrection of Jesus defines our witness.

Firstly, because the resurrection is true proclaiming the gospel gives birth to faith that leads to life. Even people who are spiritually dead and for whom we hold out little hope, can come alive because of the witness of the gospel. That's why public events like our March of Witness matter, that's why we mustn't give up talking about our faith, because these are words that bring life.

Secondly, because the resurrection is true, we can rightly represent God. In 1 Corinthians 15:15 we're

told that if Jesus hasn't been raised then our witness is false, but it is because this event took place we are not selling some false hope or some whimsical fantasy, but something genuine, credible and sincere.

Thirdly, because the resurrection is true, your sins have been forgiven. You don't need to live under condemnation, you can and should live a joyful life. Paul warns us, 'And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins' (1 Cor. 15:17). But because of the resurrection, your sins have been forgiven at the cross. It was accomplished, sealed, and confirmed. Nothing can undo what Jesus has done at the cross.

Fourthly, because the resurrection is true, all who die in Christ live forever. It is hard losing those we love. I know how hard it was for me to preach the resurrection at Easter 2014 when I'd just heard that Ashley Doughty had passed away, but I said to Revd John Carrier that day, 'I have to preach - if I don't preach the resurrection this morning of all mornings what good is it?'

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:18, 'Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.' There is no hope for us if Christ did not rise. But because the resurrection is true, as Christians we can say: 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' (1 Cor. 15:55).

Finally, because the resurrection is true, we, our lives and callings, are privileged. Paul tells us that 'If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied' (1 Cor. 15:19). But our lives are to be envied, even when we experience struggle and suffering, because our reward is secure in Christ.

So this year as we approach Easter may God help us to do so with confidence, with joy, and with great courage for the amazing good news of the resurrection is true!

With my love and prayers,

James

MINISTER (Methodist)	Rev. Andy Laird <a href="mailto:andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk">andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk</a>	
MINISTER (URC)	Rev. James Church <a href="mailto:jamesichurch@hotmail.com">jamesichurch@hotmail.com</a>	
ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret Bull	
CHURCH TREASURER	Tina Wise	
ORGANIST	Margaret Height	
MID-WEEK WORSHIP	Jane Grunfeld	02476
WEDNESDAY LUNCH	Veronica Brown	
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	Margaret Height Ruth Eyles	
PROPERTY COMMITTEE	Ken Robertson	
RAINBOWS	Bridget Halpin	
BROWNIES	Bridget Halpin	
GUIDES	Rebecca Williams	07708
BEAVER SCOUTS	Matthew Drinkhall	07804
CUB SCOUTS	Janet Doody	
SCOUTS	Graham Robbins	
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Mark Reading-Jones	07845
GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Graham Martin	
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie Carrier <a href="mailto:carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk">carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
CARETAKER	Pat Langley	

## ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Mar 6	Sue Darlison	Brenda & Alan Watts	Valerie Douglas	Rosemary
Mar 13	Rosemary Moore	Veronica Brown & Jean Young	Bella Major	Margaret
Mar 20	Ann Blower	Sally Cligg & Janice Dean	George & Margaret Height	Jean
Mar 27	Julia Morris	Bridget Halpin & Joyce Limage	Margaret Bull	Margaret
Ap 3	Veronica Brown	John & Ruth Eyles	Rosemary Moore	Rosemary
Ap 10	Joan Bicknell	Julia Morris & Jane Grunfeld	Jane & Frank Grunfeld	Kath

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 **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 March Magazine by Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier\_mj@yahoo.co.uk**

## FAMILY NEWS



**David Hunt**, the son of Alma and the late Revd. Clifford Hunt, receives our Church Magazine by email each month. He writes:

Thank you for the newsletter - always good to hear about what is happening in the first church I attended way back in the early 1960s when Dad was the minister there. Some of the people who remember us from that long ago may be interested to hear that my mother, Alma Hunt, has moved this week to Abbey Park Nursing Home in Coventry to be closer to my sister, Revd. Margaret Locke-Wheaton, who I see is speaking at your Friendship Circle in March - small world!!!

**Judy Hewer** (the daughter of Vi Rutherford who was a stalwart member of Spencer Street Church and Radford Road Church), and her husband, **Philip**, are moving from their home in Thame to be near their son in Gateshead. We trust that they will settle happily there.

**Thelma Richards**, who had a severe stroke earlier in the year, passed away in Warwick Hospital on Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>. Details of the funeral are not known at the time of writing but you are asked to keep Thelma's family in your prayers.

**Gill Hubbard** has been transferred to Stratford Hospital for further treatment on her fractured leg and dislocated shoulder. **Derek** remains at home but is missing Gill greatly.

**Anne Pilling** had an operation on February 18th and will stay with her daughter in Nottingham for a week after her discharge. **Kingsley** is in respite care in Nottingham where he will stay for a month whilst Anne recuperates.

**John Farrington** has been missed at church recently after having a fall in his garden. We send our love and prayers to him.

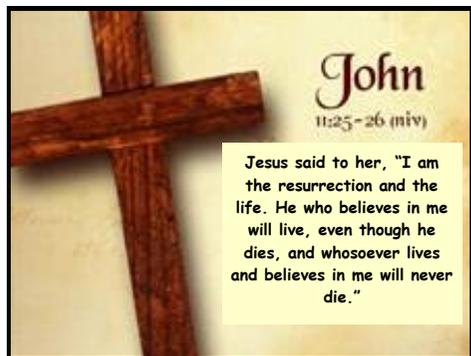
**Clarice Thompson** is not at all well but she sends her best wishes to all her friends at church.

**Anne Blower** has had a severe cold and cough and has been confined to the house for several weeks.

We hope to see **Frances and Michael Thompson** back at Radford Road when Frances recovers from her hip replacement operation.

We send our love and prayers to all those who are finding life difficult at the moment.

## OUR COVER PICTURE



Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. It celebrates the resurrection from the dead of Jesus, three days after he was crucified. The Easter story is at the heart of Christianity.

After Jesus was crucified on the Friday (now known as Good Friday), his body was taken down from the cross, and buried in a cave tomb. The tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers and an enormous stone was

put over the entrance, so that no-one could steal the body.

On the Sunday, Mary Magdalene, followed later by some of Jesus' disciples, visited the tomb and found that the stone had been moved, and that Jesus' body had gone.

Jesus himself was seen that day by Mary and the disciples, and for forty days afterwards by many people. His followers realised that God had raised Jesus from the dead.

## A PRAYER FOR EASTER MORNING

O Lord Jesus Christ, who upon this day did conquer death and rise from the dead,  
and who is alive for ever more, help us never to forget your Risen Presence forever with us.

Help us to remember,

That you are with us in every time of perplexity to guide and to direct;

That you are with us in every time of sorrow to comfort and console;

That you are with us in every time of temptation to strengthen and to inspire;

That you are with us in every time of loneliness to cheer and befriend;

That you are with us even in death to bring us to the glory of your side.

Amen

## FILM CLUB

The next Film Club will be on **Thursday March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm**  
when you can enjoy

### “Alan at Highgrove”

The Prince of Wales takes Alan Titchmarsh on a tour of his gardens at Highgrove House - his own personal retreat and family home. Prince Charles gives a remarkably informal and candid interview about the outlet for all his gardening aspirations, offering a rare insight into a royal passion.

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

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15<sup>TH</sup> - 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2016

This is the biggest single act of Christian witness in Britain. During April Radford Road Church will be appealing for collectors, walkers and sponsors to raise money for this very worth-while cause.

Our church is responsible for house to house collections on the whole of Sydenham estate and some other areas of the town too. It is a mammoth job to cover this huge area in a week and the more volunteers we have, the easier the task becomes.

Could you deliver envelopes in a few streets?

Could you spare an hour or two to go with others and knock on doors to collect the envelopes?

We will be organising our own Sponsored Walk around the Jephson Gardens on Sat. May 14<sup>th</sup> and then returning to church to recover at the Big Breakfast.

Could you be a walker?

Could you sponsor the walkers?

Please consider how you can help and remember the work of Christian Aid in your prayers.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

### CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

**Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> 9.45am** for 10am

**Leader:** Sally Pearson

Further details will be posted on the church notice board.



### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY

**Maundy Thursday March 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm** Service at Dale St Methodist Church

**Good Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> 11.45am** Silent Procession from Holy Trinity Church to Christchurch Gardens, following the Cross.

**12.00noon** Raising of Cross service at Christchurch Gardens.

**Easter Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup> 6.30am** United Sunrise Communion Service on Campion Hills (entrance Leicester St.).

### JAMES IS RUNNING THE LONDON MARATHON!

Don't forget that on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April James will be running the London Marathon. He is running in memory of Ashley Doughty, a young man from Lillington who died on Easter Day 2014 (20<sup>th</sup> 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) supported Ashley throughout his illness and James hopes to raise money to support this charity and its important work.

If you have not yet sponsored James, please do so by signing up on the sponsor forms so that a goodly amount of money can be donated to this worthwhile charity.



## CLAPHAM TERRACE CHILDREN TO VISIT RADFORD ROAD CHURCH

We are delighted to be welcoming the children of Clapham Terrace Nursery and Reception class to Radford Road Church on Friday morning March 18<sup>th</sup>. The 4 and 5 year old children will be told a simple form of the Easter story and this will be followed by various craft activities connected with Easter.

If you are able to help with the craft work, with serving orange juice and biscuits to the children, to talking with children, teachers and helpers or with the clearing up afterwards then please come along on the day.

We do want the children to learn the true meaning of Easter.

### EASTER ACTIVITY MORNING FOR CHILDREN 40 Days and 40 Nights



Is it that time already...?

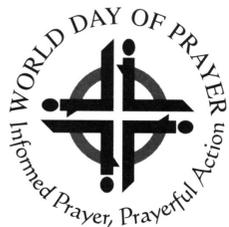
Yes, we have arranged the date, **THURSDAY MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-12:00noon**. We have planned the activities and are looking forward to welcoming the youngsters and parents.

During the morning, we will be looking at Jesus' time spent in the desert. We want to help the children to understand how this part of Jesus' life links to Lent, that God is very firmly in control of His creation and "All things were made to His glory".

Please continue to pray for this work and if you haven't come along to any of our mornings yet, why don't you try and drop in?

Jane

## THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2016



This year's service will be held at Radford Road Church on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> and it would be good to have as many people as possible from Radford Road, (men, as well as women), attending the service. Bring along your friends to this special service. The service for 2016 has been written by the Christian women from Cuba and the title of the service is 'Receive children. Receive me'.

As Radford Road Church is hosting this service we shall need:

- people to welcome our guests from other churches
- people to give out Orders of Service booklets
- people to provide cakes
- people to serve refreshments
- people to tidy up afterwards

Please see Joyce Limmagine or Margaret Sheldon to offer your help.



### 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 Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Please see James for further details.



### THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST is on March 12<sup>th</sup> 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".



## CUB SCOUTS REPORT



*The long line of muddy boots in the church hall corridor, after the Cubs' night hike.*

2016 is the Cub Centenary year. Cub Scouting is 100 years old. How many people remember 'Bob a Job week', boys in long socks, green garters and green caps all offering to do a good turn every day? We have had to drop the 'Bob a Job week', garters and caps but are still working on doing our best and our good deeds. This is going to be a year of many activities, not only for the Cubs at Radford Road, but Cub Scouting all across the world.

Our diary of activities started on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January with a night hike across from Offchurch followed by pizza, films and a sleepover (eventually) in the Church Hall. It was a great success.

The Cubs also took part in the Leamington District Cub Swimming Gala and came 7<sup>th</sup> out of 14. Other activities this year will include a County Camp for over 900 children, and a renewal of our promise ceremony during the pantomime in December at the Spa Centre.

So, if anyone has any past memories of being a Cub or being involved with the Cubs it would be lovely to hear from them.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When we depend on man, we get what man can do;  
When we depend on prayer, we get what God can do.

## PRAYING TOGETHER IN MARCH

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 Thelma Richards	16th	Mary Coles
2nd	Jean Innes	17th	Wendy
3rd	Revd. Dawn Saunders	18th	Revd. James Church
4th	Women's World Day of Prayer	19th	Margaret & Chris
5th	Hilda & Ken	20th	Kingsley & Anne Pilling
6th	Jessie Lawson	21st	The Bible Study Group
7th	Wednesday Lunch	22nd	The Film Club
8th	Valerie	23rd	John Farrington
9th	The Uniformed Organisations	24th	The Night Shelter
10th	Jane & Family	25th	The Elders of the Church
11th	Friendship Circle	26th	Gill & Derek Hubbard
12th	The Big Breakfast	27th	Kit & Hugh Smith
13th	The Faith Forum	28th	Clarice
14th	Joyce Hill	29th	Mid-Week Worship
15th	The House of Light & Hope	30th	Clive Fowle's work
		31st	Revd. Andy Laird

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 TINY FROGS

Once upon a time there was a group of tiny frogs who arranged a climbing competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. A big crowd gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on all the contestants. The race began....

But quite honestly no one in the crowd really believed that such tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. They were saying "It's way too difficult, they will never make it to the top," and "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"

The tiny frogs began collapsing one by one, except for those who were a bit stronger and kept climbing higher and higher.

The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult!!! No one will make it!" More tiny frogs got tired and gave up.

But one continued higher and higher and higher long after all of the others had given up and dropped back down to the bottom and he, after a big effort, actually made it to the top!

All of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it.

One contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach his goal! But the successful frog didn't hear him so he shouted the question again. But he still didn't hear, so he shouted at the top of his voice, which was really loud for such a tiny frog. But he still couldn't hear him, he was deaf!

How much more could we do if we, like the frog, turned a deaf ear to all those who say we can't.

...

.....Author Unknown.....



### JANUARY FINANCES – 2016

**Income:** January Collections etc. (5 weeks)

£1901.73

Tina Wise

## MARCH DIARY 2016

Tues	1	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. Rachel Burgess
Wed	2	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Episode 3 of the film 'Jesus'
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Andy Laird</b>
Tues	8	2.00pm	The Friendship Circle - John Cotterill
Wed	9	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship Episode 4 of the film 'Jesus'. The Revd. Peter Powers, the Methodist Superintendent Minister will be attending.
Fri	11	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace (Ephesians)
Sat	12	9.00am	Big Breakfast
<b>Sun</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service led by the Revd James Church</b>
Tues	15	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Rani Clare
Wed	16	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Episode 5 of the film 'Jesus'
Thurs	17	2.00pm	Film Club: "Alan at Highgrove"
Fri	18	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Palm Sunday All Age Worship and Parade Service led by the Revd. Andy Laird.</b>
Tues	22	2.00pm	The Friendship Circle - Revd. Andy Laird. Holy Communion for Holy Week
Wed	23	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship
Fri	25	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Easter Day Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church</b>
Tues	29	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - No meeting
Wed	30	12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Songs of Praise DVD "Easter Day 2014"

## THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY



The Queen celebrates two birthdays each year: Her actual birthday is on 21<sup>st</sup> April and her official birthday is held later in the year.

2016 is a special year for Her Majesty as it will mark her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and celebrations will be held throughout the spring and summer. Each evening between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party will follow the Royal Windsor Horse Show in a celebration of her life, her love of horses, her dedication to the Commonwealth and international affairs and her deep involvement with the Navy, Army and Air Force. A member of the Royal

Family will attend each day, the Queen will be in attendance on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> and the event will be televised.

Because the Queen is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, every parish church in the country is being encouraged to organise a festival and an exhibition to mark the Queen's official birthday on the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

**At Radford Road Church we plan an afternoon tea party to mark this special royal birthday. It will be held on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> (just 2 days after the Queen's actual birthday), and, incidentally, the supposed date of William Shakespeare's birth and the date of his death in 1616. So, book the date now and watch out for further details.**

## EASTER LOVE

At Easter we celebrate love,  
love coming down from heaven,  
love blanketing the earth  
in a transforming embrace;  
unique and infinite love,  
giving more than we can imagine  
for us, to cleanse our sin,  
a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God,  
the walking, talking Word.

He is teacher, role model, friend,  
this God in human form,  
dying, then rising from the dead,  
proving all who believe  
will also rise  
to have eternal life, with Him,  
Lord of all.  
Oh, Happy, Happy Easter!

*By Joanna Fuchs*