

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).

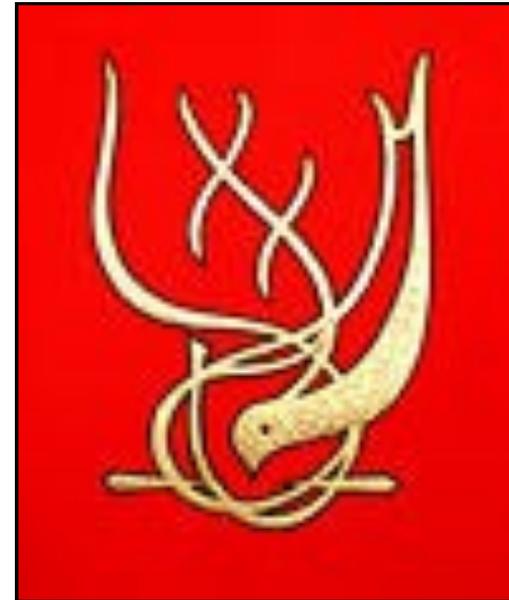
WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

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 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



May 2016

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

To the Family of God that meets at Radford Road Church, It strikes me as strange that we celebrate the birth of Jesus with such fuss and excitement, we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus with chocolate and hallelujahs, and yet the coming of Jesus' Spirit at Pentecost almost slips by without us noticing it. Yet, for the early church these events took a completely different order of significance.

Shepherds and wise men may have gathered there, but the celebration of Christmas day appears to have been a later development. The first Easter was, without a shadow of a doubt, world changing, but the disciples were completely caught by surprise, they seemed confused and uncertain of what was to follow. The events took time to process, to come to terms with, and then to respond to.

It is Pentecost that is described as the birthday of the church, even the apostle Paul, we're told, sought to finish his third missionary journey swiftly in order, if at all possible, to arrive in Jerusalem in time to celebrate this day (Acts 20:16). It is the events of Pentecost that turn cowed and timid disciples into international statesmen, diplomats, and preachers.

On the day of Pentecost everyone heard the believers in their own tongue (Acts 2:6) a sign that pointed to the global reach of Jesus' mission. Today, we look around and we see different nationalities in worship even within our own church, we also know that there are churches that meet across the world to celebrate.

With all this diversity in the church how is it that we, as disciples, are called to be one? This question brings me back to Pentecost again because Jesus prayed in John 17, 'keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.' Then later he continued his prayer, 'that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.' (John 17:20).

We have all heard and maybe even have given, sermons on the need to be one, to be united, to stick together, but that is not what this prayer is about. It's not answered by us working at doing more together. Jesus' prayer has been answered categorically on the day of Pentecost when God's people were all indwelt by the one Holy Spirit and united with Jesus in the one body.

That's why wherever we worship on Pentecost morning we're united with believers right the way across the town and indeed the world, and when we celebrate 'Praise in the Park' on the 5th June, whether we're meeting at church (at 10:30am) or joining with others in the park (at 11:00am) we are one. We have the same life within us because Jesus didn't pray in vain.

With love in Christ and in the fellowship of His Holy Spirit,
James



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
May 1	Ann Blower	Jean Young & Sally Cligg	Jenny Masters & Janine Jones	Margaret
May 8	Julia Morris	Margaret Bull & Joyce Limmagine	Hazel Hobbs	Jean
May 15	Joan Bicknell	Ruth & John Eyles	Joyce Limmagine	Rosemary
May 22	Veronica Brown	Brenda & Alan Watts	Tina Wise & Debbie Hill	Hazel
May 29	Sue Darlison	Bridget Halpin & Janice Dean	Pat Langley & the Richardson family	Kath
June 5	Rosemary Moore	Veronica Brown & Sally Cligg	Mavis Moore	Tony
June 12	Ann Blower	Jean Young & Julia Morris	Brenda Tandy	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 **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 June Magazine by Sunday May 22nd at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk or phone 427451.

FAMILY NEWS



Congratulations to **Sally & Andrew Cligg** who have recently celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary and to **Gill & Derek Hubbard** who have celebrated their Diamond Wedding. Gill remains in Homewood but cannot put any weight on her leg. Derek is at home but is not well. They both send their love to all friends at Radford Road Church.

Brenda Watts has celebrated a big birthday recently and we send her belated birthday greetings.

Janice Dean's mother was involved in a road accident whilst staying with Janice and it resulted in a broken leg. She has now returned to her home in Hull where she is recovering.

John Eyles has recently retired and we trust he will enjoy many happy and healthy years.

Geoff Cook, who has already undergone an operation on one hand, is to have surgery on his other hand on Sunday May 8th. We pray that it will again be successful.

We continue to remember all housebound friends and send love and greetings to them.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

He gave you arms to hold me up when I am falling down
 He gave you lips to cheer me up when storms are all around
 He gave you songs to fill me up when words will never do
 For this family, oh Father I thank you!

He gave you tears to cry with me when I am filled with grief
 He gave you joy to laugh with me when I find relief
 He gave you eyes to watch over me as I walk the narrow way
 For this family, Father I thank you today!

Family Friends and Fellowship keep me going strong
 There's always someone by my side I know that I belong
 To a family bound for glory land, I find myself at ease
 'Cause this family who loves Jesus, has His peace!

He gave you tears to cry with me when I am filled with grief
 He gave you joy to laugh with me when I find relief
 And because you love Jesus, I can trust you to love me too!
 For this family, oh, Father I thank you!

Marquita Lawson

OUR COVER PICTURE

PENTECOST (MAY 15TH 2016)



Pentecost Sunday, which comes 50 days after Easter Sunday, marks the end of the Easter season in the Christian calendar and celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

The story of Pentecost is told in Acts 2:1-41.

We read how a terrific wind came from heaven and the disciples saw tongues of fire as they were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. They were able to speak in

tongues so that all the people from different countries were able to understand their message. Peter preached boldly to them, explaining about Jesus Christ and God's plan of salvation. The crowd was so moved when Peter told them of their part in Jesus' crucifixion that they asked the apostles, "*Brothers, what shall we do?*" The right response, Peter told them, was to repent and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. He promised that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. They took the gospel message to heart. About 3,000 people were baptised and added to the fledgling Christian church on that Day of Pentecost.

CHRISTIAN AID

This year Christian Aid Sunday is the same day as Pentecost.

Some people from our church will be taking part in the Sponsored Walk on May 14th and others will be knocking on doors each evening throughout this special week to collect money for Christian Aid. People in over 20,000 churches across the UK and Ireland will be raising money to help transform the lives of some of the world's poorest people. Could **YOU** help?

This year, Christian Aid Week tells the inspiring story of families living on the low-lying islands on the Brahmaputra river, Bangladesh, who live a daily battle against the devastating and catastrophic effects of climate change.

Christian Aid believes the most vulnerable do not have to be swept away by the tide of poverty – however vast these problems may be, there are solutions.

Please support Christian Aid Week by signing the charts in the vestibule. Helping with the House to House collection and/or taking part in the Sponsored Walk will be much appreciated.

If health issues prevent you from doing this then please sponsor our walkers, give generously and PLEASE PRAY FOR THE WORK OF CHRISTIAN AID.

HELPING HANDS

A mother, wishing to encourage her son's progress at the piano, bought tickets for a performance by the great Polish pianist Ignace Paderewski. When the evening arrived, they found their seats near the front of the concert hall and eyed the majestic Steinway waiting on the stage. Soon the mother found a friend to talk to, and the boy slipped away.

At eight o'clock, the lights in the auditorium began to dim, the spotlights came on, and only then did they notice the boy - up on the piano bench, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star". His mother gasped in shock and embarrassment but then, the master himself appeared on the stage and moved to the keyboard.

He whispered gently to the boy, "Don't quit. Keep playing". Leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in the bass part. Soon his right arm reached around the other side and improvised a delightful obligato. Together, the old master and the young novice held the crowd mesmerized with their blended and beautiful music.

In all our lives, we receive helping hands - some we notice, some we don't. Equally we ourselves have countless opportunities to provide helping hands -sometimes we would like our assistance to be noticed, sometimes we don't. Little of what we all achieve is without learning from others and without support from others and what we receive we should hand out.

EASTER WORKSHOP



On Maundy Thursday it happened - twenty children with their parents and carers arrived at 9:30 for our fourth Easter

Workshop. We heard the story of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness and how he was tempted by the devil. The emphasis was on the fact that Jesus said "NO" to each temptation and that the earth was already the Lord's and made for His glory. To reinforce the story the children made flap jack biscuits, to represent seeds and fruit Jesus might have eaten. Shields were constructed and used later in a battle to fend off a bombardment of newspaper balls, great fun!!! Sponges and paint were used to create a picture of God's creation, and many of you will have seen the beautiful Easter Garden in the porch created by the children.

Easter wouldn't be Easter without eggs and each child decorated a key ring with a cross and hearts which they attached to a chocolate egg and then, before our final sing song, we had a walking backwards Easter Egg hunt.

It was, as always, a super morning and it couldn't have happened without your support and that of the trusty band of helpers on the morning. Sincerely I say "Thank you" to the wonderful team: Hazel, Marjorie, Veronica, Margaret, Bridget, Jean and, of course, Revd. James Church who led singing and battle with equal aplomb.

Jane

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON
PRAISE IN THE PARK**

On Sunday June 5th at 11.00am in the Pump Room Gardens

Join with hundreds of other Christians from churches across Leamington to share in this special service.



**CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS
LADBROOKE AND WEDDINGTON HILL**

Saturday Mayth 2016 9.45am for 10am
Approx 4 miles, meet near The Bell at Ladbrooke

Lunch at The White Hart, Ufton

Leaders: Glenys and David Bishop

More details on the vestibule notice board.

FINANCES – MARCH 2016

Income:

March Collections etc. (4 weeks) £1372.46

Tina Wise

JAMES HAS RUN THE LONDON MARATHON!

The big day has happened!

The London Marathon is over.

At the time of writing we are unsure of how James fared but we do know that he would have given his utmost to complete the marathon and so, whatever the outcome, we would all like to say “Well done, James!” We were all searching the TV coverage for a

glimpse of James in his pink T-shirt and headband and we look forward to seeing photos and hearing of his experiences of being part of this fantastic event. No doubt James will have aching limbs and possibly a few blisters but, whether or not he reached the finishing line, it is a terrific achievement just to have been selected and to have taken part in this great event. We are all very proud of you, James, especially as you were raising money for, and awareness of, CLIC Sargent. This charity will benefit from the sponsorship that James raised and be able to help more young cancer patients and their families with vital emotional, practical and financial support during and after treatment.



FILM CLUB

The next Film Club will be on **Thursday May 26th at 2.00pm**
when you can enjoy

“Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont”

On a rainy Sunday in January, the recently widowed Mrs. Palfrey arrives at the Claremont Hotel where she will spend her remaining days. Her fellow residents are magnificently eccentric and endlessly curious, living off crumbs of affection and snippets of gossip. Together, upper lips stiffened, they fight off their twin enemies—boredom and the Grim Reaper. Then one day Mrs. Palfrey strikes up an unexpected friendship with Ludo, a handsome young writer, and learns that even the old can fall in love.

Tea and cakes will be served £2.00 per person

HIRING OF OUR PREMISES

Since September the hiring of our premises has increased greatly.

This is due to:

- the diligent work of John Carrier who meets each enquirer, shows them the premises, issues the relevant forms and collects the rent.
- the advertising of the available rooms on the web site which is illustrated with photographs and specifications taken by Andrew Cligg.
- the caretaking duties of Pat Langley who deals with heating arrangements and opening and locking the premises for one-off events.

Many of these bookings are on a regular basis and the church finances benefit from the use of our premises by these “outside lets”.

It is good that our rooms are being used by members of the local community and we welcome them to our premises.

Everyone is reminded that church organisations need to ensure room availability before making plans for events other than their regular meetings.



VISIT OF LEADING METHODIST CLERGY TO THE VATICAN

The Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Gareth J Powell, with other senior Methodist representatives from around the world, visited Rome to celebrate 60 years of worship and ministry of the English speaking Methodist community in Rome. They were received by Pope Francis in a private audience at the Vatican on the morning of Thursday 7th April during which the Revd Gareth Powell gave the following presentation to Pope Francis:

Your Holiness, We bring you the greetings of the Methodist people.

The work of the Ponte Sant Angelo Church in Rome, and the ecumenical commitment of its ministers, has led to important exchanges of insights and wisdom as together we seek to proclaim the love of God.

The dialogue between Methodists and Catholics continues to enrich our understanding of each other and also of ourselves. That the formal dialogue takes place at an international level is vital to our understanding of the breadth of God's creation. That churches in this City and in a whole variety of local communities give expression to our common faith in Christ is vital to our faithful search for deeper unity.

We are grateful to you for the encouragement you give that together we must strive to be one in faithfulness to Christ and the mission of the Church.

Your Holiness's declaration of a Year of Mercy is one in which the Methodist people take a most particular interest. The proclamation of the mercy of a loving God stands at the heart of all that John Wesley, our founder, stood for. His brother, Charles, expressed it in one of his hymns;

“Prepare the vessel of thy grace, Adorn me with the robes of praise, And mercy shall be all my song; Mercy for all who know not God, Mercy for all in Jesu's blood, Mercy, that earth and heaven transcends; Love that overwhelms the saints in light ...” [584, Methodist Hymn Book]

We are grateful to your Holiness for offering us fresh understandings of the Mercy of God. Your call to a renewed understanding of God's mercy is one that must surely find expression in our common endeavours and in the way that we live out our mission and shape our ecclesial communities.

In this gift of a copy of the Hymns on the Lord's Supper by John and Charles Wesley you will find something of the Methodist emphasis on the depth of God's loving purposes.

We pray that together we may find a deeper sense of our shared calling.

Through our sharing in the celebration of the victory of love over death may we have a more dynamic and urgent sense of our mission. In these hymns and in all that we do as followers of the risen Christ, let us raise our voices in the proclamation of our common gospel and the offer of mercy.

For further information, including photos and radio segments, please visit the Radio Vaticana website.

RADFORD ROAD CHURCH

There is a lot going on at Radford Road Church and you will be very welcome to attend any of these regular events:

The Friendship Circle

A small group who meet in the Church Vestibule every Tuesday afternoon. Sometimes there is a visiting speaker, other times a members' afternoon is held. Always there is a welcome, a chat and a cup of tea.

Coffee Morning (Wednesday 10.30am – 12 noon)

Drop in for a cup of coffee and a biscuit, (or two). Come and go as you please.

Wednesday Lunch (fortnightly)

A popular lunch time meeting which begins with a light lunch of soup (£1.50) followed by a talk on a Christian theme.

Mid-Week Worship on Wednesday (fortnightly)

After enjoying a light meal (jacket potato and filling for £1.50) a service of worship is held.

Film Club (monthly on Thursdays)

Come along and watch a 2 hour film with friends Afterwards join a friendly group who love to chat whilst enjoying a cup of tea and home made cakes.

Bible Study Group

This group meets at the URC Manse. They drink coffee, eat cookies and study a book of the Bible

The Big Breakfast (Saturdays monthly)

Sizzling sausages, crispy bacon, baked beans and eggs just the way you like them. A fabulous breakfast (and no washing up to do afterwards!)

The cheapest, and possibly the best breakfast in town. All proceeds go to our Mission Fund.

The Uniformed Organisations

Children from 5 years of age to late teens enjoy the activities arranged for them at Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Explorer Scouts.

And, of course, we have our **Sunday Morning Worship** to which all are welcome. The service is usually led by one of our two Ministers and Holy Communion, open to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, is held on the first Sunday of each month.

With all these activities taking place there is no need to sit at home and be lonely. Come along to one or more of the groups which appeal to you and have fun and friendship with others.

PRAYING TOGETHER IN MAY

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

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.

SAINSBURY'S SHOPPING VOUCHERS

You may have noticed a box on the table in the vestibule of the church.

You are invited to place the vouchers you are given when you pay your bill at Sainsbury's checkout into this box. Our Scout Group will benefit as they are able to redeem these vouchers for equipment which will be of use to the young people in the Scout troop.



Please support our Scout Group as you shop, and drop your vouchers into the box over the next few weeks.

MOBILE PHONES VS THE BIBLE

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our mobile phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to children as gifts?

What if we used it when we travelled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go... "Hmm. Where is my Bible?"

Oh, and one more thing.

Unlike our mobile phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think, "Where are my priorities?"

NO REJECTED calls!

NO FLAT BATTERY!!

NO "pls call me" messages because He will call on you ALL THE TIME!!!



MAY DIARY 2016

Sun	1	10.30am	The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Andy Laird
Tues	3	2.00pm	The Friendship Circle: Tony Gulliman "The Lucy Family of Charlecote Park"
Wed	4	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. Peter Powers
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting in the Vestibule
Fri	6	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	8	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd James Church
Tues	10	2.00pm	Friendship Circle: Chris Johnson & Margaret Moore will talk about The Night Shelter
Wed	11	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Songs of Praise "Retirement"
Fri	13	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	14	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	15	10.30am	The Sunday Service for Pentecost and for Christian Aid led by Mr Peter Ashton
Tues	17	2.00pm	The Friendship Circle: "The Gideons"
Wed	18	10.30am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship and Communion Service led by the Revd. James Church
Fri	20	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	22	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	24	2.00pm	Friendship Circle: Revd. James Church "The London Marathon"
Wed	25	12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by a talk by Rev. Rachel Burgess "Sinai"
Thurs	26	2.00pm	Film Club "Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont"
Fri	27	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	29	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Andy Laird
Tues	31	2.00pm	No meeting of The Friendship Circle

Forthcoming Event

**Friends of Homewood Garden Party
Saturday 25th June at Homewood
2.00pm - 4.00pm**

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY



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

2016 is a special year for Her Majesty as it will mark her 90th birthday and celebrations will be held throughout the spring and summer. Each evening between 12th and 15th May the Queen's 90th 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 15th and the event will be televised.

At Radford Road Church we held a special celebration on 23rd April, the Saturday after the Queen's actual birthday.

The room was decorated with red, white and blue bunting, posters covered the walls and a really happy atmosphere pervaded. We watched a delightful film about Her Majesty, enjoyed an elegant afternoon tea, sang the National Anthem and everyone was given a commemorative gift to take home.

Many thanks to the organisers for a splendid "royal" afternoon.



**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 has taken a 2 week break but meetings will resume on May 6th. Please see James for further details.



**THE NEXT
BIG BREAKFAST**

**is on May 14th
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".