

## 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	2.00pm 7.00 - 8.30pm	Friendship Circle Guides (10-15 years) at Radford Road
Wednesday	11.00am 12.30pm	Coffee Morning Wednesday Lunch alternating with Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship at 1.30 pm.
Thursday	2.00pm	Film Club (monthly)
Friday	6.15 - 7.45pm 6.15 - 7.15pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	Cub Scouts (8-10½ years) Beaver Scouts (6-8 years) Scouts & Explorer Scouts
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)

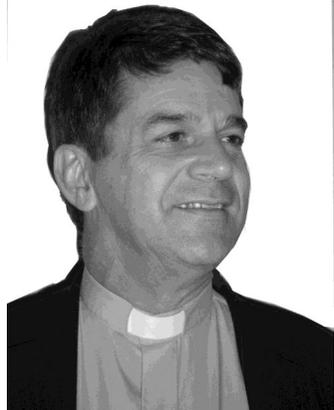
**Radford Road Church**  
**Leamington Spa**  
CV31 1NF

*Magazine*



**April 2017**

## THE MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear friends

As we move through April we move from Lent to Easter, via Holy Week. From sacrifice, to sacrifice, to celebration. We can read all about that in Matthew's gospel which tells us that on Palm Sunday many of the people shouted "Hosanna!", while others shouted, "Who is he?". Throughout Holy Week Jesus crams the disciples' and the people's heads with teaching and then on Good Friday they all shouted "Crucify!" Then on Easter Day itself only the chosen few are let in on the real story of the day – and in that gospel we are not told anything of what the people said – they are silent.

It all seems the wrong way round doesn't it?

All the noise and fuss and celebration seems to come before the death of Christ while the resurrection itself receives a mute response.

Isn't it the same today? Society seems to engage happily in giving things up for Lent; Easter eggs are on sale from soon after Christmas; and everyone is happy to have some time off work over Easter. But then it's back to business as usual: the religious significance of this season forgotten.

We in the Church can fall into the same trap. Yet the resurrection is fundamental to our faith as Christians. We, in the Church, should live as 'Easter People' in the world all the year round. Easter signifies not just resurrection, but also new life, new hope and new beginnings; and if society doesn't see any evidence of these qualities in us, either as individual Christians or as The Church, then the Easter message is lost – again!

The Easter story is such **good news**, for us and for the world – and isn't this a world in need of some good news? So, if things seem to be getting quietly back to 'normal' (if there is such a thing as 'normal' these days) after Easter, let us look for ways to be Easter people, full of the good news to the people around and about us. Let us find ways both as Christians in the world and as Church to continue the celebration of that good news long after the last Easter egg is consumed.

We are Easter People: let's live like it! Let us not be silent.

May God bless you this Easter Time,  
Andy

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
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	Alec Doody
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Deb Cooper
GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Louise Kalus
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie Carrier <a href="mailto:carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk">carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk</a>
CARETAKER	Pat Langley

*Telephone numbers have been removed because of the Data Protection Act.*

## ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Ap. 2	Sue Darlison	Bridget Halpin & Margaret Bull	Rosemary Moore	Rosemary
Ap. 9	Rosemary Moore	Sally Cligg & Jean Young	Jane & Frank Grunfeld	Kath
Ap. 16	Ann Blower	Jane Grunfeld & Veronica Brown	Jean Young	Jean
Ap. 23	Sarah Church	Julia Morris & Tina Wise	Ann Blower	Tony
Ap. 30	Veronica Brown	John & Ruth Eyles	Jenny Masers & Janine Jones	Margaret
May 7	Joan Bicknell	Brenda & Alan Watts	Hazel Hobbs	Hazel
May 14	Sue Darlison	Janice Dean & Bridget Halpin	Joyce Limmage	Rosemary

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 May Magazine by Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier\_mj@yahoo.co.uk or phone 427451.**

## FAMILY NEWS



On April 23<sup>rd</sup> (St. George's Day) we will be welcoming the family of **Jean and Roger Young** to morning worship. Their daughter, Alex, and Guillaume (Marçais), who live in France, will be bringing their young children, Louis Alexandre and Clémence Marie Jean for baptism. The service will be a very happy and special occasion for the whole family. Our prayers are with **Margaret Sheldon** on the tragic loss of her daughter in March. We surround her with our love and prayers.

**Hazel Hobbs** will be in our thoughts and prayers as she undergoes back surgery in April.

We are pleased that **Jean Innis**, who has been unwell for several months, was well enough to attend the Wednesday Lunch Group in March.

**Kingsley Pilling** is in respite care for a short period and plans to return there when Anne has further surgery.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with **Joyce Limmage, John Farrington, Mary Coles, Gill & Derek Hubbard, Ken & Hilda Robertson** and others who have difficulties.

### A Prayer for our Church Family

Gracious God we pray for your healing touch to rest upon those who are sick; your strength to be felt by those who are tired; your wisdom and your love to encourage those who live with despair and fear. We think of the people we know who are suffering in mind or body and offer our personal prayers for them.

### CHURCH'S JOB BOARDS

Sometimes, as you use our premises, you may notice something amiss. There may be a flickering fluorescent tube, a dripping tap, a door which does not close properly or some other minor defect. You may take the view that someone else has spotted it and that they will put it right, but it never happens! Now **YOU** are able to do something about it!

There are two small notice boards, one in the Vestibule and the other in the Church Centre Foyer, and you are asked to write down any job that needs doing within the church premises. The Property Committee will take note of these and action will be taken to remedy the fault.

## OUR COVER PICTURE



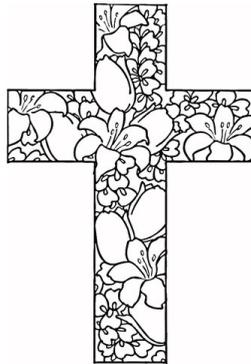
Would we be counted  
among the doubters  
hiding in the shadow  
cast by that cruel cross?  
Or, when challenged,  
like Peter  
openly deny you?  
There are times, Lord  
when doubts assail  
and the distance between us  
seems to increase.  
There are times, Lord  
when sin has its hold,  
like a barrier between us  
that will not move.  
Who is there we can turn to  
when we feel so overwhelmed?  
Who can roll away the stone  
and reveal the empty tomb?  
No-one but you, Jesus,  
no-one but you!

*John Birch*

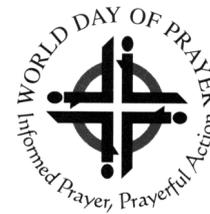
### THE EASTER CROSS

Our Easter cross was made from the Christmas tree which decorated our church throughout December. It was then stripped of its branches and the bare trunk was made into the Lenten Cross. Each Sunday throughout Lent a symbol was added to represent Christ's journey to the cross.

**On Easter Sunday you are invited to bring a small posy of flowers so that the cross will be transformed into a vibrant living cross of flowers. Our thoughts will focus on the Resurrection and the cross of flowers will represent the living Lord.**



## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER REPORT



Women from several Leamington churches, including several from Radford Road, gathered together at St. Mark's church on Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> to join in the wave of prayer that encircled the world. The first service was held at daybreak in Samoa and churches in 170 countries used the same service in their churches throughout that day.

The service had been prepared by the women of the

Philippines on the theme 'Am I being unfair to you?'

The congregation focussed on a very busy, colourful painting\* produced by Rowena 'Apol' Laxamana-Sta.Rosa, a self-taught artist. It was a picture of two halves - one side painted in dark, dull colours showing tenement houses, industry and forlorn, lonely people, whilst the other bright and vibrant side depicted rivers, fields and plentiful harvests. The congregation reflected on the two contrasting sides of life as seen through the eyes of the women of the Philippines. whilst holding to the truth that God is a fair and just God.

At the end of the service everyone was invited to hold hands in a circle to signify unity with one another throughout the world.

Come and join the circle,  
come and take my hand.  
Come and join the circle,  
come and be my friend.  
Gather round and see  
what the world can be.  
Come and join the circle,  
come and share God's word with me.

\*You are able to see the picture on the church web site under the News tab.

The Women's World Day of Prayer for 2018 will be prepared by the women of Suriname on the theme 'All God's Creation is Very Good' and the service will be held on the first Friday of March 2018.

**THE URC PAST CASE REVIEW PROCESS  
A TIME TO ACKNOWLEDGE PAST ABUSES,  
SHOW CHRISTIAN LOVE AND BUILD A STRONGER,  
SAFER CHURCH COMMUNITY**

Each of the United Reformed Churches in the country has been asked to make people aware of the Past Case Review Process. In part of a lengthy statement, the URC says,

*'We have all made mistakes and we want to learn from those mistakes. People have been hurt by bullying or abuse in churches in the past. Things went wrong and people may be carrying the hurt inside them. We want to learn from the past and do better in the future. The Past Case Review is a way for the United Reformed Church to listen and to learn. We want our churches to be safer places, where people can grow without fear.'*

As Radford Road Church comes, for administrative purposes, under the Methodist safeguarding processes this does not pertain to our church at present. However, if something happened prior to the union of our two churches connected to the former Spencer Street URC congregation, then the URC is ready to listen and learn from the experiences of individuals and correct any inappropriate responses made in the past. Anybody from the former Spencer Street church who wishes to talk over a concern can speak with the Minister, an Elder or Safeguarding lead.

The Methodist Church may well follow a similar plan sometime in the future and, if this is the case, then, as part of the safeguarding process, Radford Road Church will be part of that system.

**CHURCH MAGAZINE BY EMAIL**

Our Church Magazine is now sent out monthly by email to 24 people. This method of distributing cuts down on paper, printing, stapling (and my time!), and helps to keep our planet that little bit greener. Other advantages are that the Magazine for the following month is delivered promptly on your screens during the last week of each month and you get your copy in colour. You can easily forward it to friends or family so that they can keep up to date with news from Radford Road.

If you would like to receive your magazine in this way please send me an email and your name will be added to our growing list.

Marjorie

**THE LITTLE BOY WHO DREW A CROSS**



A Sunday School teacher asked her young class to draw a cross. Most of the children quickly drew a stick-like object that closely resembled the letter "T," but one child got out all the pastel crayons and became quite intent while working on his drawing. When he finished, his picture was a cross, covered with beautiful flowers. He explained, "I put flowers on my cross to make it beautiful because that's how Jesus made it so I could go to Heaven."

**REVD. MHARI M<sup>C</sup>LINTOCK**

Many of you will remember Mhari who, during her training for the United Reformed Church Ministry, worked in the Coventry and Warwickshire Area under the direction of our then Area Minister, the Revd. Elizabeth Caswell. After completing her training she was ordained and inducted to the leadership of Abbey Hill URC, Kenilworth.

A Farewell Service for Mhari took place at Abbey Hill United Reformed Church on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March led by the Revd. Steven Faber, the URC Moderator of the West Midlands Synod.

Mhari is now taking up the new post of Synod Advocate for Dementia Friendly Churches and we have received the following invitation to her Induction Service:

**The West Midlands Synod of the United Reformed Church**

**invites you to the Induction Service of the Revd. Mhari M<sup>C</sup>Lintock  
as Synod Advocate for Dementia Friendly Churches.**

**The service will be at West Orchard United Reformed Church,  
Baginton Road, Styvechale, Coventry CV3 6FP  
on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 2.30pm.**

**Light refreshments will be available after the service.**

If you wish to go to West Orchard URC for this service please let Margaret Bull know as soon as possible so that she can submit numbers for catering purposes.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

### Easter Services

**Maundy Thursday 9.30am** Children's Activity Morning  
**Good Friday 10.30am** Dale St. Service  
**11.45am** Meet at Holy Trinity Church for a Silent Witness procession to Christchurch Gardens for The Raising of the Cross service.  
**Easter Day 6.30am** Sunrise Service on Champion Hills, Leicester St. led by the Revd. James Church  
**10.30am** Service at Radford Road led by the Revd. John Carrier

## CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS -



**Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017 9.45am for 10.00am**

**Around Draycote Water (5 miles)**

Meet in the car park at Draycote (there is a charge).  
Optional lunch at the restaurant on site.

**Leader:** Margaret Fox 5



## The Circle Singers

present

### Rejoice!

**A concert of happy music for springtime  
in aid of the Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa's Charities**

on

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017**

**at 7.30pm at Radford Road Church**

Tickets £10.00 (to include light refreshments during the interval)  
available from

Royal Leamington Spa Town Council  
at the Town Hall

Tel.: 01926 450906

Email: [mayor@leamingtonspatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@leamingtonspatowncouncil.gov.uk)



## 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.  
Please see James for further details.



**THE NEXT  
BIG BREAKFAST  
is on April. 8<sup>th</sup>  
at 9.00am**



Come along and bring your friends and then stay to visit the Knitted Nativity Exhibition.

Proceeds to our Mission Project, The Mission Aviation Fellowship.

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY MORNING

Please don't forget the date - **Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30am - 12:00noon.**  
We would love to see people sometime during the morning to chat with children and parents and also, if possible, to help with crafts and refreshments.

As always, the most important thing is your prayer support for this event.  
Thank you. Jane

## FILM CLUB

The next Film Club will be on Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm  
when you can enjoy

### "Amazing Grace"

This biographical drama tells the story of William Wilberforce and his campaign, in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, for the Abolition of Slavery in the British Isles. The film also recounts the experiences of John Newton as a crewman on a slave ship and subsequent religious conversion, which inspired his writing of the poem, 'Amazing Grace'. Newton is portrayed as a major influence on Wilberforce and the abolition movement.

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

## PRAYING TOGETHER IN APRIL

The monthly Prayer Diary encourages the Church family to focus prayers on specific people or organisations on a daily basis.

1st	Mission Aviation Fellowship	16th	The Uniformed Organisations
2nd	The Street Pastors	17th	Joyce Hill
3rd	The Knitted Bible Stories Exhibition	18th	John Farrington
4th	The Friendship Circle	19th	Elders of the Church
5th	Churches Together in Leamington	20th	Valerie
6th	Margaret Sheldon	21st	The Bible Study Group
7th	Wednesday Worship & Mid-Week Worship.	22nd	Wendy
8th	The Big Breakfast	23rd	Jean Innes
9th	Hazel Hobbs	24th	Rev. James Church
10th	Joyce Limmage	25th	Kingsley & Anne Pilling
11th	All involved with Night Shelter	26th	Maureen Hillman
12th	Andi Beqiri in Albania	27th	Jessie Lawson
13th	Children's Activity Morning	28th	Clarice Thompson
14th	Hilda & Ken	29th	Mary Coles
15th	Rev. Andy Laird	30th	Gill & Derek Hubbard

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.

## CHRISTIAN AID 2017



### Christian Aid Week 14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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 worthwhile cause.

#### House to House Collection

Since Christian Aid Week began 60 years ago, volunteers from churches have collected house-to-house. They delivered more than seven million envelopes last year, each one sending a message about Jesus' love and justice. Every envelope delivered is also a chance to start a conversation, to introduce the local church. It's an act of witness, proclaiming Jesus' good news to the poor. It's a sign of his kingdom, visible to the whole community. And it's a clear demonstration that Christians won't stand by while our neighbours are suffering.

#### Walkers

Radford Road will be organising its own sponsored walk again this year on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Walkers will **meet at church** at 9.00am and then set off to walk around The Jephson Gardens. They will return to Church after the walk to recover at the Big Breakfast.

#### Sponsor a Walker

Could you sponsor a walker? If you can, then please complete the sponsorship form on the board in the vestibule

#### BEETLE DRIVE & PUDDINGS AFTERNOON

I am still recovering from a surfeit of puddings! The table was full of a delicious assortment and there was enough for seconds and thirds if you could manage them (I could!). We had great fun playing Beetle and coping with the chaos that ensued when trying to remember which was clockwise and which was anti clockwise in order for winners and losers from each round to get to the right place.

We also all enjoyed sharing Mavis Peace's birthday celebrations with her friends and family, thank you for letting us be part of your special day, Mavis. As well as having fun the reason for this event was to raise money for our church funds and thanks to everyone's generosity we reached a total of £230. Thank you to everyone who came, made puddings and especially those who helped set up, serve tea and then clear up at the end.

Jane.

## APRIL DIARY 2017

<b>Sun</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Andy Laird</b>
Mon	3	2.30pm	Lent Group
Tues	4	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - 'Dementia' Laurence Sandman (meet in Hall Lounge)
Wed	5	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship & Knitted Bible Story Exhibition with Revd. James Church
Fri	7	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	8	9.00am	Big Breakfast
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Palm Sunday Service led by the Revd. Stuart Scott</b>
		<b>6:00pm</b>	<b>Methodist Circuit Service at Stockton</b>
Tues	11	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Holy Week Meditation & Communion. Revd. Andy Laird
Wed	12	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Holy Week Worship led by the Revd. James Church
Thurs	13	9.30am	Children's Easter Activity Morning (see page 11)
Fri	14	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Easter Sunday Service led by the Revd. John Carrier</b>
Tues	18	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - No meeting
Wed	19	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by Tanita Robson
Fri	21	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church</b>
Tues	25	2.00pm	Friendship Circle: "Charlecote Park" Tony Gulliman
Wed	26	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by a Christian Aid speaker
Thurs	27	2.00pm	Film Club "Amazing Grace"
Fri	28	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church</b>

**NOTE** The Knitted Bible Stories Exhibition will be set up on Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3.30pm and will be open every day of that week until April 8<sup>th</sup> inclusive. Please see Page 9 for further details

## KNITTED BIBLE STORIES EXHIBITION

April 4<sup>th</sup> - April 8<sup>th</sup>

Everyone is getting very excited about the forthcoming Exhibition which takes place during the first week of April. Mrs Jenny Clarke has lovingly created all the 26 Biblical scenes which will be on display and her husband, David, has painted and constructed the backdrops for each exhibit. The Exhibition features 11 stories from the Old Testament and 15 New Testament stories depicting Jesus' life.

An attractive booklet has been produced giving information about each scene and this will be available for our visitors to take home.

The Exhibition is free but visitors may wish to make a donation which will be divided between The Mission Aviation Fellowship, which is our current Mission Project, and Radford Road Church.

The Exhibition has been widely advertised among the Methodist Circuit, the churches of the URC local area, Churches Together in Leamington, local residents and craft groups. School groups have shown a keen interest and morning visits have been arranged for several of these groups.

Help will be needed with setting up the exhibits on Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3.30pm and with the dismantling on Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm. Volunteers will be needed on the other days to serve light refreshments, assist with school groups and to chat with our visitors. Please add your name to the list on the church notice board in the vestibule if you can help.

Please talk to all your friends and neighbours and encourage them to come along. It is an exhibition which has never been on display before, which is thought-provoking and detailed and which is a 'must-see' for everyone.

### Opening Times:

**Tues - Friday 9.30am - 12 noon School parties only**

**Tues - Friday 2pm - 4-00pm Everyone invited**

**Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm Everyone invited**

### FINANCES

#### Income - Recent Collections

January	£1899.69 (5 weeks)
February	£1711.26 (4 weeks)

Tina