

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 nd . Saturday) Christians Together in Leamington Ramblers (monthly)

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

Radford Road Church Leamington Spa CV31 1NF

Magazine



Dec 2016/Jan 2017

THE MINISTER'S LETTER CHRISTMAS 2016

To the Family of God at Radford Road Church, Whilst the nativity scene wouldn't be complete without three wise men and their gifts, I expect we are all well aware that Jesus was never met in the manger by the wise men, but the meeting happened as much as two years later. Jesus by this stage had been presented at the temple and was quite probably walking and talking and nearly two years old.

For this reason we celebrate the coming of the wise men, twelve days after Christmas, with the feast of Epiphany (you could make Christmas last a little longer and open some gifts then). However, this famous account of Jesus and the wise men is unique to the book of Matthew (Matthew 2), and shows us how sages from the East came first to Jerusalem in search of the infant child. They came with the question, 'Where is the one born King of the Jews?'

Well if you start asking a question like that to the man seated on the throne, you start making a few people nervous. As Timothy Keller wryly observes in his excellent little devotional book, *Hidden Christmas*, 'The text tells us that Herod was "disturbed" – one of the great understatements of the Bible.' This is a man who for all his grand building projects, was known as one of the most violent rulers of the ancient world. It is said that after Herod executed three of his sons for plotting against him, Caesar Augustus once remarked, 'I would rather be Herod's pig than his son'.

Anyway, Herod having been alerted to the existence of this child, sought the advice of his advisors, and then sent the wise men to Bethlehem, with instructions to search diligently for the boy and then send word to him, 'that I too may go to worship him'. Herod, of course, only wanted to kill him. And when he realised that the truly wise men had double crossed him, in a genocidal fury, Herod sent his soldiers to kill all the children under two. Just to make sure the would-be ruler would be eliminated!

Now on first assessment this is a pretty familiar story. Power, after all, corrupts and ultimate power corrupts ultimately. The Bible and history are full of rulers who would do anything to preserve their power and influence. Herod could just be seen as one more example of an unjust ruler slaughtering the innocent. However, it is all too easy for us to read this story in this way and ignore the fact that each of us wants to be King of our own hearts, captain of our own destiny, and then Jesus comes along and claims us for his kingdom.

And there's a clash, are we going to go like the wise men to worship as did 'The Three Kings of the Orient' or are we going to fight like Herod to be master of our own souls? History suggests that Herod died just a few short years later and, still raging, went to meet the True King. I pray that when we come before him, we will come in peace.

With my prayers for a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year,
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	Alec Doody
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Deb Cooper
GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Louise Kalus
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie Carrier carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk
CARETAKER	Pat Langley

ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Dec 4	Veronica Brown	John & Ruth Eyles	Jessie Lawson	Kath
Dec 11	Joan Bicknell	Brenda & Alan Watts	Valerie Douglas	Rosemary
Dec 18	Julia Morris	Janice Dean & Jane Grunfeld		Margaret
Jan 1	Rosemary Moore	Jean Young & Bridget Halpin		
Jan 8	Ann Blower	Julia Morris & Veronica Brown		Hazel
Jan 15	Joan Bicknell	Margaret Bull & Jane Grunfeld		Kath
Jan 22	Veronica Brown	John & Ruth Eyles	Friendship Circle	Tony
Jan 29	Julia Morris	Sarah Church & Marian Malsam	Rosemary Moore	Rosemary
Feb 5	Joan Bicknell	Brenda & Alan Watts		
Feb 12	Sue Darlison	Jane Grunfeld & Julia Morris		

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

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 February Magazine by Sunday January 22nd at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk or phone .

FAMILY NEWS



Over the past few weeks several of our people have been unwell because of heavy colds and chest infections. We pray that they will soon be feeling much better and back at church with us again.

Sally Cligg is recovering from her hip replacement surgery. Hospital stays are extremely short nowadays but Sally will be well cared for at home and we trust that she will soon be free from the pain and discomfort that has troubled her in recent months.

Sally writes: *"I would like to thank everyone at Radford Road for their kind thoughts, prayers and wishes sent to me following my hip replacement. Looking forward to a new year of mobility."*

Sue Darlison is also in Warwick Hospital and is undergoing a shoulder operation. She will then stay with one of her daughters to receive the TLC which she will need.

There are several people who are unable to worship with us regularly because of age or infirmity and we ask that you remember **John Farrington, Clarice Thomson, Anne & Kingsley Pilling, Ralph Patterson and Gill & Derek Hubbard**.

Both **Hazel Hobbs and Marjorie Carrier** are now back in action though Hazel is undergoing further tests.

Some of our members are, or are planning, further world travels and we wish 'Bon Voyage' to **Geoff & Ann Cook** who are spending Christmas in South Africa, **James & Sarah Church** who are looking forward to a three week trip to Australia and **Jane & Frank Grunfeld** who are also planning another visit to Australia in the early part of 2017.

We wish all our church friends a Very Happy Christmas and God's blessing for the New Year.

A Prayer for our Church Family

Glory to God in the highest!

May the song of the angels ring in our ears

and the joy of the shepherds set our hearts on fire

that our worship may become a gift of love answering love.

Come let us adore him: Christ the Lord!

OUR COVER PICTURE



I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

By Howard Thurman

Howard Thurman (1899-1981) was a prominent African American author, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader. In 1944, he was instrumental in founding the Church for the Fellowship of all Peoples, one of the first racially integrated churches in the United States.

Christmas Events

Nov 28 th - end of Dec.	Community Christmas Tree
Nov. 29 th - Dec 3 rd	Nativity Exhibition
Dec. 3 rd 12.00 noon	Follow the Star (Christ Church Gardens) followed by refreshments at the Baptist Church
Dec. 11 th 10.30am	Christingle Service
Dec. 16 th & 22 nd 6.00pm	Free Gift Wrapping in The Royal Priors
Dec 18 th 10.30am	Carol Service
Dec. 20 th 2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Lillington Ladies' Choir Christmas Concert
Dec. 25 th 10.00am	Christmas Morning Service

PLEASE NOTE TIME

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January. The material for 2017 was prepared for worldwide use by the churches in Germany based around the verses 2 Corinthians 5:14-20. The 2017 material is dedicated to the memories of the Revd. Stephen Brown who passed away in February 2016 and the Revd. Canon Gwynn ap Gwilym who died in July 2016. Both Stephen and Gwynn had served as dedicated members of the CTBI Writers Group for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for many years, making enormous contributions through their creativity and collegiality which will be greatly missed but never forgotten. There are fifty million Christians in Germany who, traditionally, have mostly belonged to the Roman Catholic Church or one of the Protestant State Churches. Recent developments, particularly the reception of refugees and asylum seekers, have begun to change this balance and other Christian traditions are finding expression. Whilst that which unites the churches is stronger than that which divides, there are still areas of difference in which the churches remain self-absorbed or construct new walls.

The text from 2 Corinthians announces that God has, in Christ, reconciled the world to himself. The love of Christ compels us to be ambassadors of this reconciliation, which is enacted by dismantling the walls. With the fall of the Berlin Wall, Germany experienced how a seemingly insurmountable wall could be brought down. The fall of this wall is a symbol of hope that, with the love of God, nothing is impossible.

The Churches Together in Leamington will hold a United Service in Leamington at The Baptist Church, Chandos Street on Sunday January 22nd 2017 at 6.30pm.

Divertimento presents
‘Christmas is Coming...’
on Saturday 3rd December at 7.30pm at Dale St. Church
An evening of Carols and Christmas songs, old and new,
from wassails to five gold rings.
Tickets £10 (£1 children) including hot fruit punch and mince pies,
are available from Jo Parkinson
and Jill Emm or on the door.
All proceeds to Action for Children

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY MORNING
Thursday October 27th 2016



We had 15 children at our half term activity morning and everyone entered into all the activities with great enthusiasm. We looked at the Lord's Prayer and how it came into being from a request by the disciples to Jesus to "teach us how to pray". The activities were planned to help the children understand the different sections of the prayer. There were road signs to show how God's will can be done; kingdom come orbs were placed on a world map to indicate where God's presence is especially needed; bread initials were made together with forgiveness fizz; name of God dominoes helped the children understand some of the names God is given and the children made

fridge magnets of the Lord's Prayer.

We sang and accompanied ourselves with musical instruments and all went home promising to come back for the Christmas activities.

NEXT CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY MORNING
Tuesday 20th December 9:30-12:00

“Precious



Load”

Once again we are asking you to pray for this event and come along to join in, or sit and enjoy being part of the fun by chatting to parents and carers. Please invite any children you know, I will be putting invitation slips in the vestibule. Thanks Jane

FINANCES – 2016

Income - Recent Collections

September	£1786.22 (4 weeks)	
October	£1786.98 (5 weeks)	Tina

NATIVITY EXHIBITION

November 29th - December 3rd



The Nativity Exhibition is underway and we are grateful to the people who have loaned their Nativity scenes to us for the display. The exhibits come from all around the world and are made of many different materials - ceramics, wood, tin, paper and even banana fibre!. Do encourage your friends and neighbours to call in and see this unique exhibition.

The exhibition is open to the public between 2.00pm and 4.00pm and we have over 140 children coming from local schools in the mornings. Some schools are supplying us with paintings which we will have on display in the church. There is no charge for the exhibition or for the light refreshments but any donation which people may wish to make will be divided between The Mission Aviation Fellowship (our current Mission Project) and our church.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE

Our Community Christmas Tree should now be in position outside the church and we are inviting members of our congregation, people who use our premises and members of our local community to each place a bauble or home made decoration on our tree. In this busy, multicultural area of the town there are a lot of businesses, homes, bed- sits and student accommodation and we anticipate that this project will bring people together and encourage a true community spirit.



There is a book in the vestibule into which those who have added a decoration can convey a message of greetings to the community. We also hope to have the church open on some mornings and afternoons so if you are able to spare a couple of hours to serve drinks and to chat to visitors then please add your name to the list on the notice board. Please make this new venture known to as many people as you can. Hand-outs are available for you to distribute as widely as possible.

Let us all make this a tree of, and for, the local community and help to spread the true meaning of Christmas of Love. Hope and Peace amongst local people.

RADFORD ROAD CHRISTMAS GREETINGS CARD

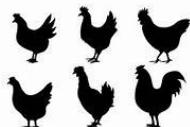
The Church Christmas Greeting Card is included with this magazine. Everyone who has written a greeting has made a donation for the work of Christian Aid. Donations totalled £208.00 and this money will be used to buy:



5 goats at £22 each



5 sheep at £10 each



6 chickens at £8 each

Many thanks to all who have participated and to Bridget who has organised the Greeting Card.

Pat Langley came across this Christmas poem which she would like to share.

SO LONG AGO

So long ago, so long ago, the story first began
Of how, upon a winter's night, our Lord was born as man.
Yet though we know the tale so well, we still draw close to hear
Those old familiar details which remain so fresh, so dear.

The star that rose in Eastern skies, and lit the desert sands,
The journey of the three wise men who came from distant lands.
Poor shepherds in their lonely fields, who watched their flock by night,
And angel hosts whose heavenly joy transformed the dark to light.

The sleeping town of Bethlehem, the humble inn nearby,
The stable where the midnight hush was cut by newborn's cry.
And there within, in lantern light, amidst the dust and straw,
A mother looked upon her child with love and hope and awe.

Oh, may this tale forever fill each listening heart with cheer,
And may it never cease to bring new hope to all who hear.
And let it live throughout the years, and never stay untold
To fill our hearts with wonderment till even time grows old.

Margaret Ingall



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 current theme is 'Coming of the Saviour'. Please see James for further details.



THE NEXT BIG BREAKFASTS are on Dec 10th and Jan 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.

See Page 8 for Christmas Special

Proceeds to our Mission Project, The Mission Aviation Fellowship.

SHOE BOXES & KNITTED GARMENTS

Thank you to everyone who filled a Samaritan's Purse shoe box or who donated goods or money.



Members and friends of Radford Road Church filled 24 boxes and, after expenses, sent £65 to help with the transportation of the boxes.

Thank you to all those who have knitted warm garments for the clients of our Night Shelter. They are always delighted with these gifts and at a time when life is getting harder and harder for the homeless and the vulnerable in our society your gifts are particularly appreciated.



FILM CLUB

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

"Suffragette"

Maud is a working mother drawn into the fight for women's rights. The film vividly depicts the struggles of Maud and the other foot soldiers of Mary Pankhurst in the establishment of the early feminist movement and their heart-breaking and inspirational fight to be heard.

Tea and cakes will be served £2.00 per person.

PRAYING TOGETHER IN DECEMBER

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

1st	Nativity Exhibition	16th	Mission Aviation Fellowship
2nd	Sue Darlison	17th	Hazel Hobbs
3rd	Mary Coles	18th	The Night Shelter
4th	Mel Astill	19th	Elders of the Church
5th	Sally Cligg	20th	Children's Activities
6th	Jessie Lawson	21st	Bible Study Group
7th	Wed. Lunch & Mid Week Worship	22nd	Wendy
8th	Margaret & Chris	23rd	Jean Innis
9th	Churches Tog. In Leamington	24th	Revd. James Church
10th	Big Breakfast	25th	The Film Club
11th	Kingsley & Anne Pilling	26th	Gill & Derek Hubbard
12th	Vi Ebanks' daughter, Beverley	27th	The Faith Forum
13th	Hilda & Ken	28th	Clarice Thomson
14th	The Friendship Circle	29th	John Farrington
15th	Rev. Andy Laird	30th	Valerie
		31st	The Uniformed Organisations

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



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS -

Saturday December 10th 2016, provisionally 9.45am for 10.00am

Short local walk followed by pre-booked Christmas lunch at the Windmill Inn.

Please contact leaders Edward McPherson or David Bostock to confirm details

Saturday January 21st 2017 9.45am for 10.00am

Further details will be on the church notice board in the New Year.

RADFORD ROAD CHURCH WEB SITE

The web site is still being updated and good progress is being made though there is still a little way to go. There are rolling pictures on the top of the screen and on some pages there are drop down menus to provide easy access to different sections.

There is a new heading for Church Magazines and you are able to look up current and past issues.

The lettings page indicates when our premises are being used and a booking form will give opportunity to book a room for outside lets. It is still important for church organisations to check the Church Diary which is kept in the Quiet Room and to let John Carrier know when a room is required.

A new Activities section will provide details of the work with Children and Uniformed Organisations; there will be sections for Worship, for News and for Events.

It has been a big task to make the changes especially for someone like me who is somewhat of a slow learner in these matters. Jason (our web site host) has been extremely helpful and full of good ideas. Emails have been flying to and fro as we have burned the midnight oil to establish the new design.

I hope you will find the new format easier to follow when everything is in place and that it gives a better indication of all the activities of our Church.

Do browse the pages if you are able.

Marjorie

DECEMBER DIARY 2016

Thurs	1	2.00pm	Nativity Exhibition
Fri	2	2.00pm	Nativity Exhibition
		7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	4	10.30am	The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	6	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - The Revd John Harris
Wed	7	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Christmas Songs of Praise
Fri	9	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	10	9.00am	Christmas Big Breakfast (see below)
Sun	11	10.30am	The Christingle All Age Worship led by the Revd. James Church and the Revd. Andy Laird
Tues	13	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Reading Afternoon with Jane Grunfeld
Wed	14	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. James Church
Fri	16	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	18	10.30am	The Carol Service
Tues	20	9.30am	Children's Activity Morning.
		2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Lillington Ladies' Choir Christmas Concert
Sun	25	10.00am	THE CHRISTMAS MORNING SERVICE led by the Revd. Andy Laird (Note time)

JANUARY DIARY 2017

Sun	1	10.30am	The Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Andy Laird
Wed	4	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by New Year Worship with the Revd. Barbara Greenwood, a new Circuit Minister
Sun	8	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Chris Clewlow
Wed	11	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by Revd. Peter Powers
Sat	14	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	15	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Mr John Cooper, Christian Aid Officer, Birmingham
Wed	18	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Songs of Praise "Abide with Me"
Sun	22	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Mrs Margaret Marshall, URC West Midlands Synod Clerk
		6.30pm	CTL United Service at the Baptist Church
Wed	25	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by Revd. Peter Powers
Thurs	26	2.00pm	Film Club "Suffragette"
Fri	27	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	29	10.30am	The Sunday Service. All Age Worship Service with the Uniformed Organisations led by the Revd. James Church.



Christmas Big Breakfast
December 10th 9:00am - 11:00am

In addition to our normal menu and as a festive treat, we will be serving Buck's Fizz (non-alcoholic).
Also, there will be a Christmas Goodies Bring and Buy table.
So, why not bake a little extra of your Christmas specialities and bring some along to sell in aid of our Mission Project.

Come and enjoy - and bring your friends.



MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU:

Troubles that last only seconds	Smiles that last weeks
Giggles that last minutes	Happiness that lasts months
Chuckles that last hours	Friendship that lasts years
Laughs that last days	LOVE that lasts a lifetime

Sent by Dawn Erison who attended Radford Road Church before moving to Canada.