

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



March 2017

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

To the family of God at Radford Road Church,
 Today, I have been thinking about the Knitted Bible Stories Exhibition we will be hosting at Radford Road Church in the lead up to Easter (4th – 8th April), and as I thought about all these stories, two things struck me: The first was how often the great themes in the Bible come together, the theme of the shepherd and his sheep, for example, right through from the story of Abel who was a shepherd, and Abraham, and Jacob, to David, and Amos, to Jesus who describes himself saying, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep' (John 10:11). We have the Psalm of David that speaks of the Lord as our shepherd, and we have the prophet Isaiah's message, sung powerfully in Handel's Messiah:



'All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way. And the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.'

As we walk through Lent what a sobering thought that is for us. But the second thing I was confronted with was how central Jesus is to it all. In many ways he is the key that makes these stories live. What would it mean that Joseph had saved his family many years ago, even through the pain of his faked death to his father and the cruelty of his brothers, if we didn't see that these events point forward to Jesus who was separated from his father at his literal death upon the cross, and that, at the hands of human brothers? If we didn't see that Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers, imperfectly points us to Jesus who at the very moment of suffering cries out, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do' (Luke 23:34) as soldiers draw lots for his coat. The more I look at the Bible the more I see that it sings the name of Jesus through almost every page.

I pray that this Lent and Easter we wouldn't just be drawn in to the account of Jesus making his way to Jerusalem and to the cross, but that we would learn from the voice of the risen Jesus who on the road to Emmaus explained to his troubled disciples what all the Scriptures said about his coming. Then perhaps we will be able to testify like those disciples: 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?' For we will have been walking this season with Jesus.

In His love,
 James

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WEDNESDAY LUNCH	Veronica Brown	429465
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	Margaret Height Ruth Eyles	313027 771834
PROPERTY COMMITTEE	Ken Robertson	422296
RAINBOWS	Bridget Halpin	426419
BROWNIES	Bridget Halpin	426419
GUIDES	Rebecca Williams	07708 915277
BEAVER SCOUTS	Matthew Drinkhall	07804 364327
CUB SCOUTS	Janet Doody	07796 223361
SCOUTS	Alec Doody	07789 523552
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Deb Cooper	07859 050123
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ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Mar 5	Sarah Church	Bridget Halpin & Margaret Bull	Valerie Douglas	Kath
Mar 12	Jean Young	Julia Morris & Veronica Brown	Bella Major	Jean
Mar 19	Julia Morris	Ruth & John Eyles	George & Margaret Height	Hazel
Mar 26	Veronica Brown	Brenda & Alan Watts	Margaret Bull	Margaret
Apr 2	Sue Darlison	Bridget Halpin & Margaret Bull	Rosemary Moore	Rosemary
Apr 9	Rosemary Moore	Sally Cligg & Jean Young	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 **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 April Magazine by Sunday March 19th at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk or phone 427451.

FAMILY NEWS



Evelyn Darlison is feeling much better after having gall bladder surgery.

Welcome home to **Bridget Halpin** who looks sunburnt and well after spending five weeks in sun-drenched Australia. We are pleased she is sharing her down-under experiences with the Friendship Circle on March 21st.

Kingsley Pilling was admitted to hospital in Coventry but was later transferred to Rugby. He is now awaiting transfer to a Care Home for a short period before returning home.

Everyone was delighted to see **Gill Hubbard** on Sunday Feb. 12th. She is receiving excellent care at Homewood and looks well. We remember in our prayers her husband, **Derek** who is in The Sycamores.

It is good to have **Sue Darlison** worshipping with us again after her lengthy, but necessary, convalescence. We trust that her shoulder will not cause any further problems.

Margaret Bull is recovering well and we are pleased that she is able to join us for services though she is still on "light duties" until she makes a full recovery.

The church was delighted to welcome **Jherell Galang** into membership on February 12th. Jherell, with her infectious smile and delightful personality, has endeared us all to her.



On the same day there was a Service of Dedication for our Serving Elders. The congregation was reminded of the commitment made by the Elders for the spiritual care of the people and for their leadership of the church.



Pictures in colour on the church website

A Prayer for our Church Family

Jesus says, Come to me all of you.

Come if you like noise, excitement and celebration.

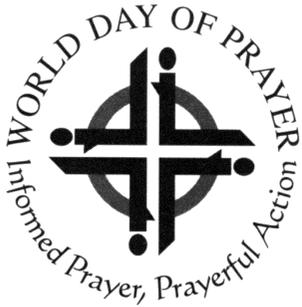
Come if you like quiet and calm and a chance to catch your breath.

Come if you want to grow and learn and change.

Come to me, all who work and strive and I will give you rest. Amen

OUR COVER PICTURE

Women's World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday March 3rd 2017



This is a worldwide ecumenical organisation whose purpose is to promote prayer and understanding amongst women.

Its motto is

'Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action'.

The theme for this year, chosen by the women of the Philippines, is 'Am I being unfair to you?' Filipino Christian women of all denominations have come together to compile the 2017 service which reflects the many problems which have

plagued this nation through time. It has suffered greatly over the years from disasters, injustices, poverty and forced migration. Yet the people's trust and faith in God and His justice has not faltered.

This strength of faith is reflected throughout the liturgy in this year's service. It is a lesson for our Western society to bear in mind.

On Friday March 3rd, a wave of prayer will begin at the break of dawn on the International Date Line and conclude at sunset on the date line 24 hours later.

Over 180 countries will take part representing all continents. Men, women and young people are invited to the service. If you would like to attend this wonderful day of solidarity with the people of the Philippines, a local service will be held at

St. Mark's Church, Rugby Road at 2.00pm.

The speaker will be Mrs Sydney Syson.

All are invited.

Prayer:

We give thanks,

for women across the world,

whose leadership, resilience and resourcefulness,

in raising families, resisting despair, embracing new livelihoods,

is transforming their communities to challenge poverty.

Blessed are you, gracious God,

who has created women in your image. Amen

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 Scouts as you shop, and drop your vouchers into the box over the next few weeks.



A SOUTH AFRICAN BLESSING

Walk tall, walk well, walk safe, walk free
And may harm never come to thee.

Walk wise, walk good, walk proud, walk true
And may the sun always shine on you.

Walk prayer, walk hope, walk faith, walk light
And may peace always guide you right.

Walk joy, walk brave, walk love, walk strong
And may life always give you song.

By Patricia Schonstein

SPECIAL SPEAKER AT THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

On Tuesday April 4th at 2.00pm Laurence Sandman will speak to the Friendship Circle about dementia from which his late wife, Brenda, suffered for many years. Laurence will also show pictures, generated on his iPad, which he is selling to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

This meeting will be held in the Hall Lounge as the church is being used for the Bible Stories Exhibition. As Laurence is travelling a long distance to give this talk the small Friendship Circle group would welcome support from others.

ST. DONATUS OF FIESOLE
and the danger of exploring an unfamiliar church!

When you are out and about on the road far from home, do you ever feel tempted to pop in and explore an unfamiliar church? If so, think of Donatus as your patron saint – and beware. You don't know what you may be letting yourself in for....

In 829 Donatus, an Irish monk, had completed a prayerful pilgrimage to Rome, and thought his adventures were over. Now there only remained the long road home to Ireland.

He had got as far as the beautiful little town of Fiesole, which sits high above Florence in Tuscany, when he saw a lot of people milling about the cathedral. Curious, he decided to look in. As he entered the cathedral, the bells rang, the lamps were lit and wham! Without any diocesan paperwork at all, he was acclaimed to be the new bishop the people had



been praying for. The people believed God meant this stranger to be their bishop, although some said it was possible that no local person wanted the position because the feudal lords had drowned the previous bishop!

Donatus was very surprised, but accepted that this turn of events must be God's will for his life. So he became bishop. Donatus was given the job of leading Pope Louis the Pious' troops against the Saracens. This he did and when he returned safely to Fiesole, Donatus settled down as a scholar and teacher of his new flock.

But he never forgot his native Ireland, and so he did the 9th century equivalent of 'twinning' his diocese, for he opened a little hospice where any Irish pilgrims passing through Tuscany could stay in safety. He died in 876, and twelve centuries later, his relics lie in the present cathedral of Fiesole.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2017

Monday 27th February - Sunday 12th March

The food on our tables, the tea and coffee in our mugs, bananas, grapes and apples in our fruit bowls are all from farmers who toil, sweat and slog.

However hard they work to provide the things we depend on, millions of farmers in developing countries aren't paid what they deserve. It's not a new problem.

We need to amplify the voices of marginalised producers as much as ever in 2017.

When we come together we can change the way people think about trade and the products on our shelves - the Fairtrade movement is made up of ordinary people doing extraordinary things in their communities for Fairtrade. Your actions help shoppers to make choices that change the lives of farmers and workers throughout the world.

A certificate in our church vestibule testifies that Radford Road Church is a Fairtrade church and all our organisations are encouraged to use Fairtrade products. When you do your weekly shop at the supermarket please also consider buying your tea, coffee, biscuits, bananas and other products which bear the Fairtrade logo. It is a way we can all show our support for the Fairtrade movement.

Join thousands of others across the UK this Fairtrade Fortnight and beyond to help our friends, neighbours, colleagues and communities to put Fairtrade in their shopping baskets and to eradicate the exploitation of farmers in developing countries.



A LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE NIGHT SHELTER

Thank you for the wonderful donation of hats, scarves and gloves from Radford Road Church to the Leamington Night Shelter. Please give our thanks to everyone who knitted the garments.

Our clients really appreciate knitted items, especially the gloves, which often are particularly requested.

We are so grateful for the support you have all given to us since we opened the Shelter at Radford Road Church.

Please remember us in your prayers.

Margaret & Chris

LENT HOUSE GROUPS

I plan to lead a Lent group for Dale Street and Radford Road churches combined. This will be held on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm at Radford Road Church starting on 6th March for 5 weeks. Material used will be based on the film *'The Theory Of Everything'*, about the life of Stephen Hawking. If you would like to attend this group please sign up using the list in the vestibule, as I need to order a book for each participant.

Revd. Andy Laird

Beetle Drive and Puddings Afternoon

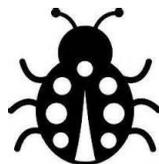
Saturday March 18th 2:30pm

Tickets £5.00



A fun afternoon of delicious puddings and some silly games of Beetle, all proceeds for church funds. This promises to be a really enjoyable afternoon, please offer to make a pudding and get your tickets from me before March 6th.

Jane



FILM CLUB

The next Film Club will be on Thursday March 23rd at 2.00pm when you can enjoy

“Calamity Jane”

This is a musical which will keep you humming the tunes for days afterwards!

The tomboy, Calamity, played by Doris Day is hard riding, boastful and handy with a gun but does eventually find love with Wild Bill Hickok, played by Howard Keel.

Tea and cakes will be served £2.00 per person.



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 March 11th 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 Mission Aviation Fellowship.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS -

Saturday March 18th 2017 9.45am for 10.00am.

Meet at The Green in the centre of Stoneleigh village for a 3 mile walk.

Optional lunch at The Green Man, Kenilworth.

Leader: Pauline Brooks 07527 593 135

More details are on vestibule notice board.

A VOLUNTARY HELPER NEEDED

The Friday Market at Dale St Methodist Church is looking for a volunteer from 8.45am until 12pm to serve on stalls and generally provide a presence.

No lifting is involved.

Please phone Lesley Willoughby on 889146 if you would like to help.

PRAYING TOGETHER IN MARCH

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

1st	Mission Aviation Fellowship	17th	Hazel Hobbs
2nd	Sue Darlison	18th	Beetle Drive & Puddings event
3rd	Women's World Day of Prayer	19th	Elders of the Church
4th	Margaret Bull	20th	Valerie Douglas
5th	John Farrington	21st	The Bible Study Group
6th	The Lent Group	22nd	Wendy
7th	Mid-Week Worship & Wed. Lunch	23rd	The Film Club
8th	Margaret, Chris & Night Shelter	24th	The Revd. James Church
9th	Jessie Lawson	25th	Evelyn Darlison
10th	Kingsley & Anne Pilling	26th	The Church Music Group
11th	The Big Breakfast	27th	Jean Innes
12th	Vi Ebanks' daughter, Beverley	28th	Clarice Thompson
13th	Hilda & Ken	29th	Mary Coles
14th	The Friendship Circle	30th	Gill & Derek Hubbard
15th	The Revd. Andy Laird	31st	The Faith Forum
16th	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 will be prayed for at Friday Bible Study and included in the monthly Prayer Diary.

CHURCH OFFERING & STANDING ORDERS

Donating money to Radford Road Church by Standing Order can really help the church with its budgeting, cash flow and administration. Many of our congregation already give regularly through the envelope scheme but may like to consider switching to a standing order. There is no need to feel embarrassed about passing the plate by at a Sunday service as more and more people are now contributing by Standing Order, but if you wish, you could put an empty envelope into the offertory plate.

The standing order can be set up very easily at a frequency (weekly or monthly) to suit the giver.

Please discuss with Bridget Halpin if you would like further details.

The Church bank account details are:

Sort code: 050558

Account number: 45489053

It is advisable to do a small one off payment first to check you have all the details correct before setting up the regular payment.

EASTER ACTIVITY MORNING



Our Easter club will take place on Maundy Thursday April 13th. The morning will be concentrating on the joy of the resurrection but making sure the children have some understanding of the events that led up to this incredible day. Marjorie will, once again, be helping the children make an Easter Garden for the entrance hall and we will be baking, constructing, painting, singing and participating in various other fun and games. Come along, offer to help or just chat to people. As always we would really appreciate your prayers for this work.
Jane

MARCH DIARY 2017

Wed	1	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by a talk about the work of the local charity "Helping Hands".
Fri	3	2.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Mark's Church
		7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	5	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Andy Laird
Mon	6	2.30pm	Lent Group
Tues	7	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - The Gideons
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Wed	8	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship
Fri	10	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	11	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	12	10.30am	The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church
		6.30pm	Methodist Circuit Service at Kineton
Mon	13	2.30pm	Lent Group
Tues	14	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - The Revd. Clive Fowle
Wed	15	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Songs of Praise video celebrating the Chinese New Year
Fri	17	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	18	2.30pm	Beetle Drive
Sun	19	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Mr John Cotterill
Mon	20	2.30pm	Lent Group
Tues	21	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - 'Holiday in Australia' Bridget Halpin
Wed	22	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship
Thurs	23	2.00pm	Film Club "Calamity Jane"
Fri	24	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	26	10.30am	The Mothering Day Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church
Mon	27	2.30pm	Lent Group
Tues	28	2.00pm	Friendship Circle: Peter Sherley
Wed	29	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch welcomes Kevin and Serena Crook who will speak about the Mission Aviation Fellowship. As this is our current Mission Project others may like to come along. Please speak to Veronica if you would like a meal.

KNITTED BIBLE STORIES EXHIBITION

Tues. April 4th - Fri. April 7th 2pm - 4pm and Sat. April 8th 10am - 4pm.

Our Knitted Bible Stories Exhibition is a MUST SEE event for everyone! We are privileged to be the first church in the whole country to have been loaned this wonderful exhibition, hand knitted by Mrs Jenny Clarke. The Exhibition depicts 26 Biblical scenes from both the Old and New Testaments and each has been skilfully made and lovingly crafted. Jenny has done all the knitting (and sewing up) of the characters and her husband, David, has made the backdrops for each story.

You will be able to see 11 models of Old Testament stories including the Creation, Noah's Ark, Joseph and his Brothers and David and Goliath and 15 stories from the New Testament telling of incidents of Jesus' life and ministry. Look out for the Miraculous Catching of the Fish, The Good Samaritan, Zacchaeus' meeting with Jesus and the donkey carrying Jesus to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Each one is a delight and each one gives us a unique insight into the Bible.

James has written a booklet in which there is a short description of each scene and this will be available for everyone who visits the exhibition.

The exhibition is open each morning for visits from schools and each afternoon and all day Saturday for adults. Admission is free but visitors may like to make a donation. The proceeds will be divided between our Mission Project (Mission Aviation Fellowship) and our church.

Please make the exhibition as widely known as possible as we are certain your friends and families won't want to miss it.

We will be needing help in preparing for the exhibition and for being on the premises during our opening times so please add your name to the lists when they appear on the notice board.

WELCOME BANNER

The Love Leamington Heart of England Community Fund was generous and enthusiastic in its support for our Community Christmas Tree which was outside the church in December.

The Fund helped financially with the costs of publicity, the purchase of fairy lights and the cost of refreshments. We were able to purchase a 2 metre high free-standing teardrop banner on which is printed 'Radford Road Church' and 'Welcome'. This banner is now kept on our premises and can be used by any church organisation or church event for publicity purposes. Please speak to Marjorie if you wish to use it.