

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



November 2016

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



What is this 'X Factor'?

I don't know if you watch it, we don't, but many do. I mean 'The X Factor', a Saturday night show on ITV made famous by having Simon Cowell and the other judges be blunt, or even rude, to prospective stars who they feel don't have the X factor. But what is this mysterious X factor?

As I go about my business day by day I meet many people who I think have the *real* 'X factor' - ordinary people who are prepared to give time and energy for the benefit of others. I'm thinking of those of you who

shop for, and visit, housebound and poorly neighbours, who organise our Wednesday lunches and worship; and those who give up their time to work in so many different ways to make sure things get done so that we can enjoy being part of things here at Radford Road.

But as we approach the day on which many people, wearing their medals or poppies proudly, will stand at a memorial or attend a church, the concept of an 'X Factor' simply does not do justice to the ultimate sacrifice made by so many for the benefit of others. Jesus said, 'Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.' That so many made, and still make, this sacrifice in wars happening all over our world, must never be forgotten.

One way in which we can honour their memory is to follow their example, doing something to improve the lives of others, but through *living* rather than dying. St. Paul urged the early Christians to be 'living sacrifices' (Romans 12: 1-5): giving all they had to serving and helping other people, living in a way which makes the world a better place for them and their neighbours.

'Love your neighbour as much as you love yourself', is what Jesus said we should do. But remember also, that in Jesus' mind our neighbours are not just the people we know and love; nor are they likely to be 'people like us'. Our neighbours are also those on the margins, through poverty, illness or race. They are the old and infirm, the lonely and housebound, the homeless and the refugee. Think: can you do something to show God's love to such as these?

If not, will you please remember them in your prayer time?

To live as Jesus and St. Paul asked we will need to make sacrifices. But we may also find in doing this that we have the real 'X Factor' – and that Simon Cowell's opinion doesn't matter!

With every blessing,

Andy

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MID-WEEK WORSHIP	Jane Grunfeld	02476 696700
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
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ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Nov 6	Sue Darlison	Joyce Limmagine & Jane Grunfeld		Kath
Nov 13	Joan Bicknell	Jean Young & Bridget Halpin	Hugh Smith & Hazel Hobbs	Hazel
Nov 20	Rosemary Moore	Veronica Brown & Julia Morris	Sue Darlison & Joan Bicknell	Margaret
Nov 27	Ann Blower	Janice Dean & Sarah Church	Diane Jones	Jean
Dec 4	Veronica Brown	John & Ruth Eyles	Jessie Lawson	Kath
Dec 11	Julia Morris	Brenda & Alan Watts	Valerie Douglas	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 Dec./Jan. Magazine by Sunday November 18th at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk or phone 427451.

FAMILY NEWS



We continue to remember those in our fellowship who are not very well. **Clarice Thompson** has been in hospital but

problems with her heart are still causing concern. **Gill and Derek Hubbard, Anne and Kingsley Pilling, Ralph Patterson and John Farrington** remain in our thoughts and prayers.

We will be thinking of **Sally Cligg** who is undergoing hip replacement surgery on November 8th and trust that the operation will be successful.

Evelyn Darlison has been in great discomfort recently and is awaiting an operation for the removal of gall stones.

Vi Ebanks' daughter, Beverley, is undergoing a brain operation very soon and she will be in our prayers.

Congratulations to **Ann and Andy Laird's daughter** who is to be married at the end of November.

Tina Wise's new telephone number is 835656 and **Mavis Peace** has changed her telephone number to 289411.

In November **Hugh and Kit Smith** will be moving to Walton Court, Apartment 2, Lillington Avenue, L/Spa CA32 5DL. We do hope they settle happily in their new home.

Hazel Hobbs writes, "A very big thank you to all my friends at Radford Road for your prayers, phone calls and cards. I am getting better slowly and hope to be with you in the next few weeks.

Marjorie Carrier adds her thanks to friends for their love and concern over recent weeks and is pleased to say that her broken ankle is healing well..

A Prayer for our Church Family

God, we pray that you will instil in each of us a burning desire to be still and know that you are God. Ps. 46:10

CHURCH AGM - Sunday 13th November

On Sunday 13th November, after the morning service all members of the congregation are warmly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting. This usually lasts about 30 minutes so please do plan to stay on following worship if you can.

The AGM is a opportunity to hear about, and reflect on, the varied activities that make up the life of our church and the many people who make all of this happen. Above all we thank God for sustaining us through another busy, sometimes challenging, year and seek His vision for Radford Road in years to come.

OUR COVER PICTURE



REMEMBRANCE DAY

At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month the two minute silence is observed to honour the heroic efforts, achievements and sacrifices that were made in past conflicts. The day is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended hostilities between allied nations and Germany in 1918.

The money raised by the sale of the red Royal British Legion poppy helps to provide thousands of modern veterans, service men, women and their families with vital advice and support. The Legion urges people not just to wear poppies for the fallen, but to wear them for the future of the living. Some people choose to wear a white poppy instead of a red one for Remembrance Day. These were introduced in 1933 by the Cooperative Women's Guild to affirm the message of "no more war". They are now distributed by the Peace Pledge Union (PPU). The white poppy represents remembrance for all victims of war, a commitment to peace and a challenge to attempts to glamourise or celebrate war.

Mario Petrucci has written a very thought-provoking six word poem about the effects of war and asks "What's the difference?"

Warmed best friend
Armed beast fiend

Look at the spelling of these words, and their meanings!

Remembrance – A hymn (first verse) for Remembrance Sunday

Words – Charles Henrywood

May be sung to the music – Finlandia by Jean Sibelius

Grant peace, O Lord, across our strife-torn world,
Where war divides and greed and dogma drive.
Help us to learn the lessons from the past,
That all are human and all pay the price.
All life is dear and should be treated so;
Joined, not divided, is the way to go.

NATIVITY EXHIBITION & CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT



It is two years ago since we had our last Nativity Exhibition and several individuals and schools have requested that we organise it again this year. It will be held at Radford Road during the first week of Advent (Nov. 29th - Dec. 3rd inclusive)- and then it will be on display at Endersby United Reformed Church in Leicestershire. If you have a nativity set which you are willing to loan for the Radford Road display only, please let Marjorie or John Carrier know.

Help would be very much appreciated in distributing leaflets in our immediate area, setting up the exhibition, manning it during opening hours and packing away afterwards. Do add your name to the chart on the notice board if you are free to help for a couple of hours.

We hope to obtain a large Community Christmas tree to place outside the church. The idea is that it will be an undecorated tree. Local businesses, groups, individuals and people who use our premises and, of course, each of you, will be invited to add just one bauble each to the tree. These can be ones that people donate from their own Christmas decorations, a bought bauble or a home-made decoration but it will not be possible to return each bauble after the event. There will be a book in which people are invited to add a Christmas greeting and cups of tea and coffee will be available free of charge during the Nativity Exhibition week and on some occasions after that. We envisage this being a community focal point and that local people will support this community venture during the season leading to Christmas.



CHURCH WEB SITE

www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk

Word Press is used to run our church website and over recent years the system has been changed. Jason, who hosts our site, is going to give the site an update so that it will operate more smoothly. We may even have rotating pictures along the top of the Home page and plan to include past church magazines as well as the current one.

New items will not appear on the site until the changes are complete so please be patient until the site is fully operational again.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

Following the Helping Hands article in last month's Magazine we are pleased to announce that their charity shop in Gloucester Street is now open from Tuesday to Saturday each week from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Your support will be welcomed and appreciated.

TREE OF LIGHTS CAROL SERVICE

led by the Revd. James Church
Sunday 20th November at 3.30pm for 4.00pm start
outside the Town Hall.

This is the busiest day in town for the switch on of the Christmas Lights. We hope you will come along and support James and help to make this a significant event by giving people a vibrant positive witness of God's presence in Leamington.

FOLLOW THE STAR

Saturday December 3rd at 12 noon..
Children from Telford School and Clapham Terrace School will be singing in Christchurch Gardens at the top of the Parade and there will be drama and dance and the Royal Spa Band will play.
This 5 minute event will be followed by refreshments at the Baptist Church, Chandos St.

FREE GIFT WRAPPING IN THE ROYAL PRIORS.

Sharing the love at the heart of Christmas.

This will take place on Thursdays, December 16th and 22nd from 6.00pm until 8.00pm. If you would like to help, please telephone 01926 498333 or email wrap2016@lssp.org.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

**From Norton Lindsey, near Warwick.
Saturday Nov. 19th 2016 9.45am for 10am**



Approximately 4 miles starting from The New Inn, Norton Lindsey.
Optional lunch at the Unicorn, Chase Meadow, Warwick.
Leader: Julie Bacchus Tel. 01926 490834.
More details on the vestibule notice board.

A CHURCH MEMBER'S ALPHABET

A is for Avoiding Arguments	O is for Offering Olive-branches
B is for Believing in the Bible	P is for Practising Patience
C is for Consenting to Change	Q is for Quietness
D is for Dealing with Doubts	R is for Relinquishing Resentment
E is for Escaping from Egotism	S is for Serving unselfishly
F is for Forgiving others' Faults	T is for Touncing Temptation
G is for Giving Generously	U is for Unity
H is for Hating Hypocrisy	V is for Volunteering for a Church job
I is for Ignoring Insults	W is for Warding off Worry
J is for Jettisoning Jealousy	X is for X-ray eyes, which see beyond appearances
K is for being Keen on Kindness	Y is for saying Yes to all that is Yet to come
L is for Learning to Love	Z is for Zest for the Christian way of life
M is for Minimising Meetings	
N is for Not being Nosy	

WELLESBOURNE CENTENARY CELEBRATION

As part of the Centenary Celebrations at Wellesbourne Methodist Church
Wellesbourne Choral Society is presenting

'Messiah from Scratch' meets 'Last Night at the Proms'

on Friday November 4th at 7.30pm

If you would like to join the choir to sing choruses from Handel's "Messiah" then do come along to join in these items or just come along to listen and to take part in the sing along of 'Land of Hope and Glory', 'Jerusalem' and other well-known favourites.

Admission is free but there will be a retiring collection for Action for Children

RADFORD ROAD CHRISTMAS GREETINGS CARD

The Church Christmas Greeting card will be included with next month's Church Magazine. Please let Bridget have your greeting (and a small donation for Christian Aid's Present Aid scheme) by **Sunday November 13th** at the very latest.

The Christian Aid catalogue is available in the church vestibule.

HURRICANE MATTHEW

We have all been horrified by the extent of the hurricane which has swept through Haiti, leaving a trail of devastation in its wake. As Haiti's frightened people emerged from shelter, the damage to their homes and livelihoods became clear. Thousands have lost their homes, corn and banana crops have been flattened, and livestock has been swept away. Winds of up to 145mph and severe flooding have knocked out mobile communications, and the electricity supply in the southwest of the island has been cut off. The main bridge linking the southern peninsula to the capital has been destroyed, hampering efforts to reach affected communities with aid deliveries.

Hundreds of people have died and cholera is a major fear. The death toll is rising as emergency workers slowly gain access to remote areas that have been cut off by the storm.

Help is urgently needed. The people need shelter, clean drinking water and food kits and these are being provided by Christian Aid and other Relief Agencies. At Radford Road Church we have held retiring collections at the end of two morning services and £75.00 has been raised. This money has already been sent to Christian Aid Emergency Appeal.

Please pray for these people.

**O God, our refuge and strength, our help in times of trouble.
Have mercy on the lands where the earth has given way.
Have mercy on the lands where the weather has destroyed
livelihoods.**

**Prosper those who rebuild houses,
and strengthen those who rebuild hope
so that entire communities may face the future without fear.
Amen.**



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 November 12th
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 new Mission Project,
The Mission Aviation Fellowship

SHOE BOXES & KNITTED GARMENTS



The Samaritan's Purse boxes which brighten the lives of children who live in war-torn countries and who will have little this Christmas, are being filled by church friends. The boxes are being collected on a table in church and will be dedicated at a morning service on Sunday November 6th. If you are filling a box please bring it to church before this date so that all boxes from Radford Road Church can be delivered to the local collection point and then sent off to children whose needs are great.

Similarly, the knitted garments for the clients of the Night Shelter will be dedicated at the same service on November 6th. The knitted gloves, hats and scarves will provide warmth for homeless and vulnerable people in Leamington.



Thank you to all who have contributed to either or both these schemes. Your willingness to give to those who have little is greatly appreciated.

PRAYING TOGETHER IN NOVEMBER

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	Clarice	16th	Mission Aviation Fellowship
2nd	Jean Innes	17th	Hazel
3rd	Mary Coles	18th	Margaret, Chris & The Night Shelter
4th	Hilda & Ken	19th	The Elders of the Church
5th	The Uniformed Organisations	20th	Kingsley & Anne Pilling
6th	Jessie Lawson	21st	The Bible Study Group
7th	Wed. Lunch & Mid-Week Worship	22nd	Film Club
8th	Sally Cligg	23rd	Valerie
9th	Churches Together in Leamington	24th	Revd. James Church
10th	Jane & family	25th	Wendy
11th	Revd. Barbara Greenwood	26th	Gill & Derek Hubbard
12th	Big Breakfast	27th	The Faith Forum
13th	Church AGM	28th	The Nativity Exhibition
14th	The Friendship Circle	29th	John Farrington
15th	Revd. Andy Laird	30th	Clive Fowle's work

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.

ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Many thanks for all your hard work in making the Craft Fair on October 1st so successful.

As you know, I was working under extreme difficulties because of my broken ankle but the cooperation and enthusiasm of everyone resulted in a fantastic result of just over £1100.

On Friday evening we were indebted to the Explorer Scouts and church helpers who moved heavy furniture and then erected and decorated stalls.

By mid-morning on Saturday the church stalls, the refreshment area, the raffle table and the 14 crafters stalls looked really attractive. We had a record number of crafters and I also had a waiting list of 11 other would-be stall holders.

Despite poor weather there was a steady stream of customers though more folk would have been welcome. After they had browsed the stalls and made their purchases they enjoyed sizzling bacon baps, home-made soups and hot pork baps served by our refreshment team.

Our Reverend MCs drew attention to the wares on sale and the background music and power point presentation added atmosphere to the day.

At the end of the day the church was transformed in just one hour ready for worship the following day.

Many thanks to every single person who helped to create a wonderful atmosphere and such a fantastic financial result. Everyone worked so hard and cooperatively for the benefit of our church.



Marjorie

FILM CLUB

The next Film Club will be on Thursday November 24th at 2.00pm when you can enjoy

“The Preacher’s Wife”

Good natured Reverend Henry Biggs finds that his marriage to choir mistress

Julia is flagging due to his constant absence caring for the deprived neighbourhood in which they live. Also, his church is coming under threat from property developer, Joe Hamilton. In desperation, Revd. Biggs prays to God for help - and help arrives in the form of an angel named Dudley.

However, Dudley's arrival seems to cause even more trouble.

Tea and cakes will be served £2.00 per person.

NOVEMBER DIARY 2016

Tues	1	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Saints Past and Present. Hymns & Readings
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Wed	2	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship & Communion led by the Revd. James Church
Fri	4	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	6	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Mr Peter Ashton. At this service the Samaritan's Purse boxes and the knitted garments for the Night Shelter will be dedicated.
Tues	8	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - John Cotterill
Wed	9	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch after which the Revd. James Church will lead Remembrance Day worship.
Fri	11	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	12	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	13	10.30am	The Remembrance Day Service led by the Revd. James Church. The service will be followed by the Congregational AGM and all members and friends are urged to attend.
Tues	15	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - A Time for Remembrance
Wed	16	11.00am	Coffee
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. James Church
		2.30pm	Mission & Outreach Meeting
Fri	18	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	20	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Miss Betty Blower
Tues	22	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. Rachel Burgess
Wed	23	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by a DVD 'André Rieu entertains'
Thurs	24	2.00pm	Film Club "The Preacher's Wife"
Fri	25	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	27	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Dr. Stuart Jennings, Chaplain at Coventry and Warwick Universities
Mon	28	10.00am	Setting up of Nativity Exhibition
Tues	29	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Nativity Exhibition
Wed	30	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. James Church, followed by Nativity Exhibition

500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

In the October Church Magazine there was an article entitled 'Martin Luther: 500th Anniversary of the Wittenberg Thesis'.

Earlier in the year The Presidents of Churches Together in England who represent the major Christian faiths in the country wrote:

We encourage all churches in England to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 with sensitivity as we acknowledge our unity in Christ.

We have learnt over the past century that unity is achieved by walking together, and we have grown in communion, friendship, reconciliation and healing. During this anniversary we want to be able to listen to the truth that is in each other, to hear our different stories, and build bridges of deeper understanding and respect.

We therefore urge the churches in England to keep this anniversary together in the spirit of five 'Rs'

Rejoicing – because of the joy in the gospel which we share, and because what we have in common is greater than that which divides; and that God is patient with our divisions, that we are coming back together and can learn from each other.

Remembering – because all three streams of the Reformation have their witnesses and one church's celebration could be another's painful memory; and yet all believed they acted in the cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ for their time.

Reforming – because the Church needs always to grow closer to Christ, and therefore closer to all who proclaim him Lord, and it is by the mutual witness of faith that we will approach the unity for which Christ prayed for his followers.

Repenting – because the splintering of our unity led us to formulate stereotypes and prejudices about each other's traditions which have too often diverted our attention from our calling as witnesses together to the mercy of God in proclamation and service to the world.

Reconciling – because the call to oneness in Christ begins from the perspective of unity not division, strengthening what is held in common, even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.

In national and local events, whether together or separately, we pray that our churches may honour each other and give thanks for our growing friendship and fellowship in the Gospel.

Taken and abridged from Churches Together in England website, www.cte.org.uk