

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	Rainbows (5-7 years) at Radford Road
	6.00 - 7.15pm	Brownies (7-10 years) at Radford Road
	7.00 - 8.30pm	Guides (10-15 years) at Radford Road
Tuesday	2.00pm	Friendship Circle
Wednesday	11.00am	Coffee Morning
	12.30pm	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	Cub Scouts (8-10½ years)
	6.15 - 7.15pm	Beaver Scouts (6-8 years)
	7.30 - 9.00pm	Scouts & Explorer Scouts
Saturday	9.00 - 11.00am	The Big Breakfast (monthly on 2 nd . Saturday)
	10.00am	Christians Together in Leamington Ramblers (monthly)

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

Radford Road Church
Leamington Spa
CV31 1NF

Magazine



September 2017

THE MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear friends,

For most of us, holidays are now behind and rapidly becoming, I hope, treasured memories. The focus now is on: 'back to school' (isn't it a shame that shops start selling school uniforms even before the children have broken up?); 'back to work' (with the realisation that things are just as you left them, no 'fairy god-mother' has dealt with the difficult stuff in your absence); and, here at Radford Road, 'back to Church' (perhaps wondering what opportunities and challenges we must face).

Going back, can be scary. When the Babylonian exile ended, around 550 BC, and God's long-promised return to Israel was brought about, many Israelites couldn't face it and so chose to stay behind in Babylon; it was another 80 years before the last ones went back! Going back can also be unsettling. After the crucifixion, some of the disciples went back to fishing (John 21: 1-6), something they thought they could just go back to and carry on as before. But they had lost the knack, they caught nothing first night out. It was only when they listened to Jesus and put the net over the other side that they met with success – and so many fish!

Yes, going back and starting again isn't easy! We can be afraid of what lies in front of us: that's human fear, natural anxiety, which often means we choose to stay where we are – feeling comfortable and safe, just like those Israelites. But look around you, and at the world, and you will see nothing stands still for very long. We, as the Church and as individuals, have to move with the times.

Even before the Israelites went in to captivity in Babylon, God was speaking through Isaiah to tell them it was coming and what God would do after it ended, 'Forget the former things, don't dwell on the past. Look at new thing I am doing' (Isaiah 43: 17,18).

In other words, we have to be ready to cast our net on the other side – do things differently, listen to what Jesus tells us to do and then be ready to do it, trusting in God to help us and be as faithful to us as he was to the Israelites.

Peace be with you all,

Andy

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	Bridget Halpin Andrew Cligg
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

ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Sept.3	Ann Bloer	John & Ruth Eyles	Jane Grunfeld	Jean
Sept 10	Veronica Brown	Brenda & Alan Watts	Tony Gulliman	Tony
Sept 17	Julia Morris	Marian Malsam & Sarah Church	Ralph Patterson	Hazel
Sept 24	Joan Bicknell	Jane Grunfeld & Sally Cligg	Peggy Askew	ALL
Oct 1	Rosemary Moore	Bridget Halpin & Janice Dean		Rosemary
Oct 8	Sue Darlison	Veronica Brown & Jean Young	Kath Richardson	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.

IMPORTANT

As I shall be away for three weeks in October the next Magazine will be a joint one for October and November. Please submit news and items for these two months by Sunday September 17th at the latest, and preferably earlier.

Email: carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk.

Marjorie

FAMILY NEWS



We send our love and prayers to **Jenny Masters** who has had a series of operations over the past weeks. We also think of her mother, **Mary Treadwell**, who has also been in hospital recently.

We pray for **Cynthia** (daughter of the late Thelma Richards), whose baby daughter, Ivy, was born very prematurely. We hope that the baby makes good progress and that the family will soon be at home together.

Your prayers are also asked for **Anne & Kingsley Pilling, Aaron Bartram, Andi Begantaj, Sue Darlison**, all those who are named in our prayer book and those friends who are unable to worship with us because of age, illness or infirmity.

Margaret Sheldon was holidaying in Italy when she had a nasty fall. This resulted in her having to spend a night in hospital and then waiting to be fit enough to fly back to the UK. She is now home again and recovering slowly.

Mavis Pearce is still recovering from her operation but it is good to see her in church each week.

Our congratulations go to **Diana Bull** who has recently announced her engagement to **Amy Flowers**. They are planning to marry at Easter next year.

A Prayer for our Church Family

God, release a spirit of prayer in our families. May we rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in everything. 1 Thes. 5:16-18

POWERPOINT PROJECTION

Each week our church service is enhanced by the Order of Service being displayed on the screen.

The number of projectionists has decreased in recent months and so we are appealing for new volunteers to join the team. Every help will be given in the preparation and projecting of the service so that in no time at all the production and transmitting of the service will become second nature! Please consider if you can help and speak with Jane.

OUR COVER PICTURE



Father God, who provided seeds to grow and to produce crops and fruits, we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your goodness and care, and for giving us enough to eat in the harvest of the land. Lord God, please also give us wisdom and good sense to use this harvest well, to trust in you to meet our needs and to help those who are hungry.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Harvest Thanksgiving is an opportunity to thank God for the crops and the fruit of the ground, upon which, despite all our clever technological advances, we are still dependent. It's a big thank-you for the food we eat and for the variety of produce.

There is the story about an old lady who was very poor. She had nothing. No shelter, no food, no proper clothes. She prayed to God and God gave her TEN apples. This was wonderful. 'Now I can get the things I need,' she said. She was so hungry that she ate the first three apples and so was full. The next three apples she traded to rent some modest shelter so that she could be safe from the rain and the sun. She exchanged the next three apples for some new clothes, so she was no longer cold at night and would look smart during the day.

But there was then one apple left. 'Why did you give me one apple more than I needed?' she asked God. 'So you can have something with which to say thank-you to me,' replied God. God gives us enough to say thank-you.

Taken from the BRF (The Bible Reading Fellowship) website

A CHRISTIAN AID HARVEST POEM

The earth is fruitful
may we be generous.
The earth is fragile
may we be gentle.
The earth is fractured
may we be just.
Creating God,
harvest in us joy and generosity
as we together share in thanks and giving.

CENTENARY OF FIRST WOMAN IN THE MINISTRY

Constance Mary Coltman née Todd who was born in 1889 and died in 1969, was one of the first women ordained in a mainstream British denomination when she was ordained by the Congregational Union of England and Wales at the King's Weigh House (Congregational Church), London, on 17th September 1917. Her husband, Claud Coltman, was ordained alongside her, the day before their marriage. Constance Todd grew up in a Presbyterian family and attended the Putney Presbyterian Church.

After being a boarder at St. Felix School, Southwold she read history at Somerville College, Oxford.

She became conscious of her call to ministry, but was told that ordination would be impossible for a woman in the Presbyterian Church of England. In 1909, the Congregational Council considered the question of ordaining women, after discussions on the possibility of women deacons and elders had occurred in the Presbyterian and Congregational churches. The principal of the (then) Congregational college, Mansfield College, Oxford, William Boothby Selbie, was persuaded that her call was genuine and in 1913 she was accepted as a student there. On completing her course she obtained her London Bachelor of Divinity degree.

Her candidacy for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament was tested and accepted by the King's Weigh House congregation in Mayfair, in 1917. After her ordination presided by William E. Orchard, (a Presbyterian who later became a Roman Catholic priest) and assisted by Congregationalist ministers, she ministered there jointly with her husband, Claud Coltman.

The two of them ministered in Kilburn 1922-23, Cowley Road, Oxford 1924-32, Wolverton 1932-40, and Haverhill 1940-46, then returned to King's Weigh House where they served until 1949 before retiring to Bexhill-on-Sea where Constance died in 1969.

Both Constance and Claud were committed pacifists throughout their lives. She was not a campaigner, but supported younger women who felt called to ministry, and she helped to found the Fellowship of Women Ministers and the Society for the Ministry of Women.

She was a friend of the Anglican supporter of women's ordination, Maude Royden, and contributed a chapter to Royden's book *The Church and Women* (1924).

CRAFT FAIR

Saturday October 7th 11.00am - 2.00pm

The Craft Fair is fast approaching and we need the help and support of everyone to make it a success.

Later this month posters and handbills will be available. Please distribute them as widely as possible so that the whole town knows of our Craft Fair.

Please donate something to a stall - we need lots to sell!

A new innovation is an Auction of Promises Stall where you can bid for a special treat. Can you donate a special prize?

Come along on October 7th and bring your friends. There will be some lovely hand-crafted items by talented local amateur producers that will make ideal Christmas or birthday presents. You can buy cakes and preserves, bulbs, apple juice, jigsaws and gifts from the stalls organised by the church and you can enjoy bacon butties, home-made soup, and pork baps.

We do need **EVERYONE** to play their part so **BOOK THE DATE NOW!**

FILM CLUB

The next Film Club will be on Thursday September 28th at 2.00pm
when you can enjoy

“The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel”

Now that The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel is full up with its long-term residents, co-managers Muriel Donnelly and Sonny Kapoor have a dream of expansion, and they've found just the place: The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.

The regular residents explore various relationships and as his marriage to Sunaina, the love of his life, quickly approaches, Sonny finds his plans for the new hotel making more claims on his time than he has available. Perhaps the only one who may know the answers is Muriel, the keeper of everyone's secrets. As the big day nears, family and guests alike find themselves swept up in the irresistible intoxication of an Indian wedding. -

Tea and cakes will be served £2.00 per person.

THE QUIET ROOM

Have you noticed that the Quiet Room has had a face lift?

It has been given a spring clean (in July!) and the furniture has been re-arranged. It has now reverted to its original use of being an area which people can use for personal prayer and quiet reflection. The Quiet Room is a space for anyone to use. It cannot be booked or reserved but is always available for prayer.

We read in the Bible that Jesus regularly went to a solitary place to pray.

In Matthew 6:6 Jesus told his disciples that, in contrast to the proud and super-religious Pharisees who prayed loudly out in the street so everyone would see how holy they were, they should **"Go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen."**

Please feel free to make use of the area whether you need space to think, pray or just be quiet, the Quiet Room is there for you.

Everyone is asked to use the room whenever they wish but to keep it clean and tidy so that others can enjoy the peace and tranquillity which it offers.

EASY FUNDRAISING

This scheme has only been running for a few weeks and already we have raised **£63.23**. Easy Giving not only donates to Radford Road Church each time you purchase anything on-line but will give £1.00 for each new participant who is introduced by someone who has already signed up.

There are no hidden costs and a small percentage of whatever you spend is donated to Radford Road Church. There are over 3,000 well known retailers who participate in the scheme including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, Argos, thetrainline, Tesco and Sainsbury's.

To find out more go to

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/radfordroadchurch/>

You can download the easyfundraising toolbar to act as a reminder when you are buying online. About 3 weeks after you have made your purchase the retailer will make a donation to Radford Road Church for no extra cost whatsoever. The delay ensures that donations are not made on goods that are returned. The more people who join the scheme, the more money goes to Radford Road Church!

Please ask Margaret Bull for further details and start raising money for our church.

ANDI BEQIRAJ'S WORK IN ALBANIA

In July we enjoyed meeting our prayer partner, Andi Beqiraj from Policani in Albania. He joined us at Wednesday Lunch where he educated us a bit more about Albania, where it is, its history and the social and political problems the country is facing today. He also spoke with James during Sunday Worship where we learnt more about the man himself, his deep faith and his love for his country and its people. As our 2017/18 Mission Project, Radford Road Church was planning to help his church fund a mini bus for a children's club. However, the running of the church has been taken over by another denomination and they have put Andi's project on hold for the moment. He has asked if we can do the same and choose something else to raise money for this year. Let us continue to pray for Andi and his church that God's will be done. The Mission and Outreach team have talked about finding a different Mission Project and have suggested supporting Revd. Clive Fowle's peace and reconciliation work in Bosnia. Clive has responded with delight at our thinking of him and feels that it is an answer to prayer.

SUMMER CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY MORNINGS

Many of you will have seen the transformation made by the children to the boxes we collected. They diligently worked on making these into representations of themselves made new and pleasing to God, fit to be used as stones in His Church on earth. On the second day we showed the children how the story of the wise man and the foolish man taught us that to take Jesus into our hearts and build our lives on Him was the best way to live our lives.

Although our numbers were greatly depleted on the second day we had two very enjoyable blessed mornings and look forward to welcoming these and other children back during the Christmas holidays. Thank you to everyone who helped, especially our wonderful team working with the children and all who pray for this work.

CHRISTMAS WITH CLAPHAM TERRACE SCHOOL

We are hoping to invite the children of Clapham Terrace School to Radford Road during Advent. We would like to give them the chance to dress up and create their own nativity scenes. Please would you raid your cupboards and donate old sheets pillowcases and towels and all the things that traditionally make the best nativity costumes. Then... we need some help to make the costumes. I will be arranging an afternoon working party in November please let me know if you can give a hand.

Thanks
Jane



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 September 2nd at 9.00am
(note date change from usual
2nd Saturday)

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 URC WINDERMERE CENTRE

Carver Uniting Church hosted a thanksgiving service on Saturday 15th July for the life of the Windermere Centre, which has closed after 31 years as a much-loved residential training, retreat and hospitality centre for the United Reformed Church.

The congregation represented people from across the denomination, including people who had had associations with the centre over the years. All three past directors of the Centre were in attendance: the Revd Graham Cook, the Revd Peter McIntosh and the most recent former director Lawrence Moore. Also present was the Revd Stephen Thornton, whose vision while minister of Carver URC inspired the creation of the Windermere Centre. During the service, Mr Thornton offered insights and apt readings from Ecclesiastes 3, with its allusions to a 'time for everything' and Acts 20, which reminds us that Christians are called to work, like Paul, as 'a captive to the spirit ... not knowing what will happen'.

A link to a film of the service (excluding songs and hymns for copyright reasons), and the full text of the Revd Tony Burnham's sermon can be

PRAYING TOGETHER IN SEPTEMBER

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

1st	Our new Mission Project - Clive Fowle's work of reconciliation in Bosnia	17th	Churches Together in Leamington
2nd	Big Breakfast	18th	John Farrington
3rd	Clarice Thompson	19th	Elders of the Church
4th	Jean Innis	20th	Valerie Douglas
5th	Hazel Hobbs	21st	Mavis Peace
6th	Margaret Sheldon	22nd	Joyce Limmagine
7th	Wed. Worship & Mid-Week Lunch	23rd	Andi & his work in Albania
8th	Hilda & Ken Robertson	24th	Harvest Festival
9th	Last Night of the Proms	25th	Mary Coles
10th	Revd. James Church	26th	Maureen Hillman
11th	Night Shelter Volunteers	27th	The Street Pastors
12th	Kingsley & Anne Pilling	28th	The Film Club
13th	Clare	29th	Jessie Lawson
14th	The Friendship Circle	30th	Gill & Derek Hubbard
15th	Revd. Andy Laird		
16th	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.

JOAN PARKS' JOTTINGS

Joan Park has had connections with Dale St. Methodist Church all her life. Her mother and aunt attended the church and her parents were married there although her father attended Trinity (now Radford Road Church). Joan has trawled through back copies of the Dale St. Magazines and, together with her own vivid memories, has compiled these jottings and she recalls times past and stalwart members of the church. This collection of anecdotes will be of particular interest to Methodist members of both Dale St. and Radford Road churches. She gives names of people who served the church loyally, among them the Lowes, Butlins, Richards, Haerles and Merricks and she recalls the names of several of the Ministers who were called to serve the Methodist Church in Leamington Spa.

Because of Joan's love of music and her ability to play the piano and organ, she details the role music played in the life of the church. She still remembers songs sung in Sunday School and at services for special occasions. Sunday School outings, Christmas parties, the work of League of Light, JMA, the Scripture Union, the weekly Social Hour Teas and alterations to the premises over the years are vivid memories for Joan and reading about them is sure to bring back fond memories for others.

If you would like to borrow a copy of Joan's Jottings, which have been written as part of the celebrations of 200 years of Methodism in Leamington Spa, please have a word with Marjorie Carrier who would be pleased to lend them to you.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

Saturday September 16th at 10.00am

A 4 mile walk around Leek Wootton. Meet and eat at the Anchor Inn.

Leader: Rosemary Steel

VOW, A NEW COMMUNITY CHOIR

VOW will meet from Thursday 7th Sept. at 7.00pm at Radford Semele Baptist Church to sing Gospel and Inspirational music. No previous experience needed to join this choir and there will be no auditions.

Cost: £20 per term. A charity concert is planned for early December.

Contact charliemalin@gmail.com

PATHWAY MENTOR TRAINING DAY

Sat. Sept 23rd, 9.30 - 4.00pm. at St. Mary's Church. Free places.

See notice board for further details

SEPTEMBER DIARY 2017

Sat	2	9.00am	Big Breakfast (Note date changed from usual 2 nd Saturday)
Sun	3	10.30am	The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	5	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Wed	6	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch & Mid-Week Worship
Fri	8	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	9	7.30pm	Last Night of the Proms & Launch of New Mission Project
Sun	10	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Andy Laird
Tues	12	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. James Church
Wed	13	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch & visit by Helen Wilkes from Operation Christmas Child who will talk about her visit to Gambia.
Fri	15	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	17	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Miss Carol Cave
Tues	19	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Mrs Margaret Weir
Wed	20	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch & Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. James Church
Fri	22	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	24	10.30am	The Harvest Service & Parade Sunday led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	26	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Members' Afternoon - the letter 'R'
Wed	27	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Songs of Praise video with the theme 'Mental Health'
Thurs	28	2.00pm	Film Club "The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"
Fri	29	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace

GUIDES

Please note that from September the Guides will now be meeting every Monday evening instead of on Tuesdays.

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS & THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW MISSION PROJECT



The very popular 'Last Night of the Proms' will be held again on Saturday Sept. 9th at 7.30pm. You are invited to watch the live performance from the Albert Hall on television and to sing along with the traditional choruses. Dress up in red, white and blue, wave your flags and join in the singing of 'Rule Britannia' and other popular songs.

Enjoy a fish and chip supper together. Tickets (price £8) are limited to 40. During the evening we will launch our new Mission Project which is to support the 'Touch of Hope' work of the Revd. Clive Fowle. He is now working with the Nansen Dialogue Centre in Prijedor in the Serbian part of Bosnia. Nansen works with both Christians and Muslims, mainly in schools, and focuses on issues of identity and of living together in peace. Workshops are held and the relaxed atmosphere, together with a safe and neutral environment, help the multi-ethnic groups who come from areas burdened with the consequences of war, to share stories, to have dialogue and to explore possible solutions to their current problems. Unfortunately Clive will be unable to join us on September 9th but Judith Halliday who is a colleague of Clive's and who leads workshops in mediation, and Dornoch who is on the management Group of Touch of Hope will give a short introduction about the new work in Bosnia.

ROCK CHOIR CONCERT Saturday October 14th at 7.30pm



The Rock Choir, which hire our premises each week for rehearsals, has kindly agreed to perform an evening concert for us. Rock Choir is a pioneering, contemporary choir which performs the most uplifting and feel good songs ever written and you will delight in the wonderful singing, atmosphere and fun which pervades at all their concerts.

**Do not miss this wonderful choir!
Tickets £5 from Margaret Height.**

Proceeds to Radford Road Organ Fund and a Charity of the Choir's choice.