

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### 10.30 am THE SUNDAY SERVICE

*Holy Communion - first Sunday of each month*

*(Please refer to Diary on page 8 for details of all Services as arrangements may vary).*

## WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Monday	5.00 - 6.00pm 6.00 - 7.15pm	Rainbows (5-7 years) at Radford Road Brownies (7-10 years) at Radford Road
Tuesday	2.00pm 7.00 - 8.30pm	Friendship Circle Guides (10-15 years) at Radford Road
Wednesday	11.00am 12.30pm	Coffee Morning Wednesday Lunch alternating with Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship at 1.30 pm.
Thursday	2.00pm	Film Club (monthly)
Friday	6.15 - 7.45pm 6.15 - 7.15pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	Cub Scouts (8-10½ years) Beaver Scouts (6-8 years) Scouts & Explorer Scouts
Saturday	9.00 - 11.00am 10.00am	The Big Breakfast (monthly on 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Saturday) Christians Together in Leamington Ramblers (monthly)

Radford Road Church web site: [www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk](http://www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk)

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

*Magazine*



**Pentecost**

**June 2017**

## THE MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear friends

June arrives and marks the halfway point of the year – already! How have you used the first half of the year? The joint Lent study group, which drew Radford Road and Dale Street folk together at Radford Road Church, used the film of the life of Stephen Hawking along with a study guide. It frequently mentioned ‘time’, the study of which Stephen has devoted his life to – and is probably still thinking on today.

He put forward different theories (he changed his mind/view as he thought and studied further) but even he has still not come to an accepted scientific theory on time. So what chance do we stand?

We find some of God's understanding of time in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes chapter 3: 1 ‘There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens’. Then specific times of life are listed in the following seven verses (too many, different times to list here!). But then in verse 12 we find the nub: ‘I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live’.

It seems there is no other way to live in God's eyes: to be active, but to derive happiness from that, and to do good things with our time. There's the challenge; so many things compete for our time, which can make us busy, but are they all good? And when Jesus chastises the Pharisees and Sadducees, because they are not seeing and interpreting correctly the signs of the times (Matthew 16: 3), it should prompt us to try and do that better and so use our time responding to the times and the needs they reveal.

A clear mission strategy for the Church, and for us as individual Christians today, is emerging: to do good with our lives as we serve God responding to the ‘signs of the times’. Then we will have true happiness. There isn't time here to catalogue what I think are the signs of our time, but you only have to watch the News on TV to get the flavour of the needs. Some we can respond to personally by giving our time, or money, others we have to trust to God through prayer.

Only you can answer for your use of time; the Church's response, our response, should include work to ease the needs in our time and/or prayer for God to act on the needs of our times (according to our physical ability).

So let's not waste our time and get busy working or praying. Time doesn't stand still, it flies, so start now, it's better late than never. Every minute counts.

Andy

Revd. Andy Laird

PS Having announced recently that I will be retiring next year several of the ‘already retired’ brigade have told me not to expect life to slow down or get quieter at all and that I am likely to be as busy as ever. Maybe, but I plan to have ‘the time of my life’ still serving God and being happy doing it.

MINISTER (Methodist)	Rev. Andy Laird <a href="mailto:andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk">andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk</a>
MINISTER (URC)	Rev. James Church <a href="mailto:jamesichurch@hotmail.com">jamesichurch@hotmail.com</a>
ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret Bull
CHURCH TREASURER	Tina Wise
ORGANIST	Margaret Height
MID-WEEK WORSHIP	Jane Grunfeld
WEDNESDAY LUNCH	Veronica Brown
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	Margaret Height Ruth Eyles
PROPERTY COMMITTEE	Ken Robertson
RAINBOWS	Bridget Halpin
BROWNIES	Bridget Halpin
GUIDES	Rebecca Williams
BEAVER SCOUTS	Matthew Drinkhall
CUB SCOUTS	Janet Doody
SCOUTS	Alec Doody
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Deb Cooper
GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Louise Kalus
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie Carrier <a href="mailto:carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk">carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk</a>

## ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
June 4	Veronica Brown	Sally Cligg & Jherell Galang	Mavis Moore	Tony
June 11	Julia Morris	John & Ruth Eyles	Brenda Tandy	Margaret
June 18	Joan Bicknell	Brenda & Alan Watts	Gill Hubbard	Rosemary
June 25	Sue Darlison	Julia Morris & Janice Dean	Ken & Hilda Robertson	Jean
July 2	Jherell Galang	Bridget Halpin & Margaret Bull	Phil Schofield	Hazel
July 9	Rosemary Moore	Jean Young & Veronica Brown	Veronica Brown	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 **rrchurchpray@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 July/August Magazine by Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier\_mj@yahoo.co.uk**

## FAMILY NEWS



Several of our congregation have family concerns and our prayers are especially with the following friends:

**Geoff Cook**, whose daughter has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

**Joan & Doug Bicknell, Peter Wright and Margaret Sheldon** who have recently suffered family bereavements.

We are pleased that **Hazel Hobbs** is recovering slowly from her recent back operation. She writes, "I wish to thank all my friends at Radford Road for their love and prayers, cards and flowers which I have received over the last few weeks. I am getting there, slowly but surely, and I hope to be back at church very soon".

**Tina Wise** is now recovering at home after having her second hip operation.

**Brenda Watts' mother, Connie Currie**, is now in Homewood as her health in recent weeks has caused much concern.

**Peggy Askew** had a fall in her garden which resulted in a badly bruised leg.

**Anne Pilling** is home now after having another hernia operation and **Kingsley** is temporarily being cared for in a Home in Rugby.

**Margaret Height** has been in a lot of pain caused by arthritis in her spine and is having mobility problems.

We send our love and thoughts to these people and to others in need and we hold them in our prayers.

We were delighted to see **John Farrington** at church recently. John celebrates his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday in June, lives alone, still drives his car, and takes a lively interest in the church and in life in general. What a remarkable man he is. Happy Birthday, John!

We shall soon be saying farewell to **Lucy Flanagan** who has been a regular worshipper at Radford Road. Lucy has recently completed her finals at Warwick University and will be going to pastures new. Our good wishes go with her.

### REVD. ANDY LAIRD

The Revd. Andy Laird will be retiring from Ministry in July 2018. Andy will have served 15 years in our Methodist circuit. Ann and Andy plan to continue to live in the area and, after taking the first year of retirement away from the Ministry, Andy hopes to continue to serve the circuit as an active Supernumerary Minister.

There will be opportunity for all the churches in the Circuit to bid farewell to Andy during 2018 but in the meantime he assures us he will not be 'slowing down' or 'stepping away' from his Ministry but will continue to serve Radford Road Church and the other churches in the Mid-Warwickshire Circuit and especially those for which he has special responsibility.

### THANK YOU FROM PAT LANGLEY

"I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who stayed after service to mark my retirement from church caretaker. It was lovely to share the delicious cake and a drink with so many of you.

I would also like to say thank you for the lovely canvas of the church, the basket of flowers and the gift vouchers."

Pat Langley

## OUR COVER PICTURE



### Pentecost

Jesus had told his apostles to wait in Jerusalem. As they prayed together there was suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The Holy Spirit came to the followers of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves.

The change in them was permanent. Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming ‘Jesus is the Messiah’. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. Throughout the Old Testament there are accounts of how God’s Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ’s death and resurrection, he could ‘indwell’ in them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

### A SONNET FOR PENTECOST BY MALCOLM GUITE

Today we feel the wind beneath our wings  
Today the hidden fountain flows and plays  
Today the church draws breath at last and sings  
As every flame becomes a tongue of praise.  
This is the feast of fire, air, and water  
Poured out and breathed and kindled into earth.  
The earth herself awakens to her maker  
And is translated out of death to birth.  
The right words come today in their right order  
And every word spells freedom and release  
Today the gospel crosses every border  
All tongues are loosened by the Prince of Peace  
Today the lost are found in His translation.  
Whose mother-tongue is Love, in every nation.

*From “Sounding the Seasons” by Malcolm Guite published by Canterbury Press and available on Amazon.*

## SUMMER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - COME AND SHARE

Our next Congregational Meeting will be on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am**. All members of the Congregation are very welcome to come to hear news and plans and bring ideas.

We have moved our congregational meetings from evenings to Saturday mornings (with coffee and biscuits served beforehand). We are also changing the format slightly to enable more participation and discussion focused on our mission as a church.

In addition to covering Special Events and General Church Matters, we will be inviting:

**“Any updates from regular weekly activities or from members of the Congregation if they have news to share:**

on how they have been living out Radford Road’s mission of ‘Affirming Christ in Worship, Service and Partnership’ in new ways and how God has been at work in their lives;

on any ideas or plans for future ministry to extend Radford Road’s care, outreach and witness to reach more individuals or groups.”

Leaders of weekly activities and others are encouraged to consider what they have to report or to ask. We look forward to hearing where there have been encouraging new developments and any fresh suggestions for mission.

There will also be time for anyone who wishes to ask questions of Elders and Ministers. The full formal agenda will be circulated early in June. Do come and share with us.

Janice Dean

Congregational Meeting Minutes Secretary

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours,  
no hands but yours,  
no feet but yours,  
Yours are the eyes through which to look out Christ's compassion to the world  
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good;  
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.”

*Teresa of Ávila*

## THIS IS A TIME

**Mordecai said to Esther, 'Maybe it is for such a time as this...' Esther 4:14**

The Joint Public Issues Team has produced material for Christians to use in the weeks before the General Election. It is available at

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk> The material aims to give a balanced analysis, seeking to support Christians and local churches as they engage with the issues, and working to keep important things on the political agenda.

**This is a time** for God's people to make their voices heard. What should we be saying? Who should we be listening to – and whose voices are being drowned out?

Hustings have been held in Leamington recently and there will be another at Castle Hill Baptist Church, Warwick on Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm when the five General Election candidates will introduce themselves and when pre-submitted questions can be put to them.

Let us pray

For God's people to pray for wisdom, **This is a time**

For God's people to take courage, **This is a time**

For God's people to seek truth **This is a time**

For God's people to expose deceit **This is a time**

For God's people to make their voices heard **This is a time**

For God's people to face new challenges **This is a time**

For God's people to be a transforming presence **This is a time**

For God's people to do justice, **This is a time**

For God's people to love mercy **This is a time**

For God's people to walk humbly **This is a time**

For God's people to be peacemakers **This is a time**

For God's people to seek the common good **This is a time**

For God's people to live our values **This is a time**

For now, and for always

**This is a time.** Amen

*Written by Revd. Catriona Gorton of Hillhead Baptist Church, Glasgow*



## NEW STALL WITH A DIFFERENCE AT THE CRAFT FAIR

Our Craft Fair will be held on Saturday October 7<sup>th</sup> from 11.00am until 2.00pm. Please put the date in your diaries **NOW!** All the money raised at this event will be for Church funds.

We already have 11 crafters who have booked a stall and we have several stalls run by the church. A team of people will provide delicious refreshments. This year at the Craft Fair we plan to have a new stall - one with a difference- It will be called An Auction of Promises and Experiences and we are asking people to donate a promise of something, or an experience which others would enjoy. At the Fair the offers will be written on cards and people will be invited to make a bid for a promise or an experience. The highest bidder will win the prize.

Everyone in our church has a talent so we would like **everyone** to think what they could offer or an experience which they can give.

Could you cook a meal for a family?

Could you give a guided tour?

Could you offer a drive into the country?

Could you bake a cake?

Could you arrange a trip on a canal boat?

Could you give an introduction to drumming?

Could you donate an experience like a cream tea in town?

Could you provide a voucher for hair or nail treatment?

Could you invite two or more people to see your garden?

These are just a few ideas but there are plenty more. By now your minds will be in overdrive with lots of ideas buzzing around! Please offer something which you can make, or an experience which you can give, for this innovative stall. The giver and the winner would arrange a mutually convenient time during the next twelve months for the prize to be taken up. It will be fun, it is different and you will discover the enjoyment of providing a special treat for someone.

Please let James or Marjorie have your offers of Promises or Experiences so that we have a range of interesting and enjoyable things for this stall.

We hope to display this list in the weeks leading up to the Craft Fair so that you can consider and choose the items for which you would like to bid.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

### CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 9.45am for 10.00am

KENILWORTH CASTLE & ABBEY FIELDS



Leaders: Edward McPherson & David Bostock  
Meet at Castle Farm Recreation Centre, Fishponds Road, Kenilworth.  
Optional lunch at The Green Man pub.  
More details on the vestibule notice board.

### PRAISE IN THE PARK

On Pentecost Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017, at 11.00am  
in The Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa.

In the event of wet weather the event will be held in All Saints Church.  
Service led by the Revd. Jonathan Jee, Vicar of St. Paul's Church, Leicester Street, Leamington Spa.

Preacher: James Lawrence who worships at St. Mark's Church in Leamington and works with the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) in leadership development.

St. Paul's Church organises the annual 'Praise in the Park' event for the benefit of the whole town. Around 1,500 people from many of the churches in the town gather together to worship and pray for Leamington. The event is a great expression of our Christian unity. St. Paul's Church contribute the music, stewarding and technical expertise to make the event a success. Bring your fold up chairs or a rug and enjoy praising God with other people from local churches. You may also like to bring a picnic to enjoy afterwards.

**For those who are unable to get to the Pump Room Gardens, there will be the usual 10.30am worship at Radford Road Church on Pentecost Sunday.**

As well as coinciding with Pentecost Sunday, Praise in the Park Sunday 2017 is also the end of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer week, in which many of our churches and denominations are participating. This is a national prayer initiative for the ten days between Ascension Day and Pentecost and a lot of details are available on line:  
<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>



### 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 June 10<sup>th</sup> 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.



### BROADCAST FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WARWICK

On June 7<sup>th</sup> at 3.30pm Radio 3 will broadcast Choral Evensong from St. Mary's Church, Warwick.  
There will be a repeat broadcast on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 3.00pm.

### FILM CLUB

The next Film Club will be on Thursday June 29<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm when you can enjoy

### "Housewife, 49"

In the late 1930s Nella Last, a housewife aged 49, living in Barrow-in-Furness agrees to send details of her routine to the mass observation project designed to chronicle the lives of ordinary people. When war comes Nella defies her over-protective husband and joins the local Women's Voluntary Service. She blossoms thanks to the dominant but kindly Mrs. Waite and enjoys her independence as a useful war worker.

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

## PRAYING TOGETHER IN JUNE

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

1st	Churches Together in Leamington	16th	Uniformed Organisations
2nd	Brenda Watts' mother, Connie Currie	17th	Mission Aviation Fellowship
3rd	Wednesday Lunch & Mid-Week Worship	18th	John Farrington
4th	Joan & Doug Bicknell	19th	Elders of the Church
5th	Geoff Cook's daughter, Sarah Ann	20th	Valerie
6th	Margaret Sheldon	21st	Wendy
7th	Hazel Hobbs	22nd	Joyce Limage
8th	Rev. James Church	23rd	Jean Innis
9th	Hilda & Ken Robertson	24th	Andi & his work in Albania
10th	Big Breakfast	25th	Mary Coles
11th	All involved with Night Shelter	26th	Maureen Hillman
12th	Kingsley & Anne Pilling	27th	Jessie Lawson
13th	Tina Wise	28th	The Street Pastors
14th	Friendship Circle	29th	The Film Club
15th	Rev. Andy Laird	30th	Gill & Derek Hubbard

## LILLINGTON FREE CHURCH

Please pray for the congregation of Lillington Free Church as a request for planning permission for their new church building and associated housing development goes to Warwick District Council Planning Committee this month. This is an exciting time for the Lillington church as they meet new challenges and seize new opportunities in the area.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

### LEAMINGTON PEACE FESTIVAL

17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Churches Together in Leamington is having a stand at this event, and volunteers are needed to help for a two hour slot in two capacities:

1. **Servant Evangelism** - Historically this has been face painting, handing out water bottles, 'Fathers' Day' card making etc. though other creative ideas could be included. Volunteers should be willing servants with a heart for our town, its citizens and its visitors!

2. **Prayer** - People are required to staff the Prayer Tent to talk and pray with those attending the Peace Festival. Volunteers should be part of their church's prayer ministry team or equivalent.

It would be great to have at least two representatives from each church to work in this capacity.

Prospective volunteers should get in touch with Hannah Jacobs (CTL Secretary) via [churchestogetherinleamington@gmail.com](mailto:churchestogetherinleamington@gmail.com) She is hoping to collate everyone's availability to put together a rota by 4<sup>th</sup> June.

There will also be a *short* meeting for all volunteers on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**, from 7-8pm.

You are invited to attend the Peace Festival and, if you do so, please call in at the CTL stall.

## NEWS FROM JENNY AND DAVID CLARKE

Many of you met Jenny and David when they brought their wonderful Knitted Bible Exhibition to Radford Road in April. They were delighted with the way the Exhibition was received and now plan to display it at their own church and possibly at other venues near Bristol where they live.

Following their visit to Radford Road Jenny has been busy with her knitting pins and crotchet hook. She has crocheted a "stone" to add to the Easter garden and also produced two new scenes, one is of the Crucifixion and the other, the Woman at the Well.

She has also made some Star Wars figures to sell at their Church Fête and is knitting some angels for the church in Leighton Buzzard which Marjorie and John's daughter attends. Angels are also being knit by Jenny for distribution to the congregation at Lillington Free Church at Christmas. What a talented and industrious lady she is and she has a heart of gold!

## JUNE DIARY 2017

<b>Sun</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Pentecost Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Praise in the Park in the Pump Room Gardens</b>
Tues	6	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. John Harris
Wed	7	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Songs of Praise "The Big Sing 2016"
Fri	9	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	10	9.00am	Big Breakfast
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service led by Miss Carol Cave</b>
		<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Circuit Prayer Service at Dale St. led by Mr Paul Tennyson</b>
Tues	13	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - tba
Wed	14	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch and Mid-Week Worship led by Revd. James Church
Fri	16	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	17	10.30am	Congregational Meeting (Coffee at 10.00am)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service (Fathers' Day) led by Mr Trevor Pethick</b>
Tues	20	2.00pm	Friendship Circle: Trains in Spain video
Wed	21	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Lyn Smailes talking about "New Hope Counselling"
Fri	23	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church</b>
Tues	27	2.00pm	Friendship Circle Lillington Ladies' Choir Summer Concert
Wed	28	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch and Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. Peter Powers
Thurs	29	2.00pm	Film Club "Housewife, 49"
Fri	30	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace

## THE LANDMARK WALL OF ANSWERED PRAYER

A Christian monument built of a million bricks, each representing a prayer which has been answered by Jesus, is being designed as a landmark which could rival The Angel of the North.

Richard Gamble, a former chaplain at Leicester City football club and member of the evangelical Living Rock Church, said that the idea came to him 13 years ago when he carried a cross around Leicestershire for a week during Easter with the purpose of getting people to think about Jesus. Through press coverage and people driving past, over 250,000 people saw the cross. Anecdotally many conversations took place in offices and colleges about what they had seen on their way to work.

At the end of the week of carrying the cross, the Holy Spirit gave Richard a vision for something much bigger... The Wall.

This project, including the construction, maintenance and operation, supported by crowdfunding and major investors, is being facilitated by Network, The Evangelical Council for the Manchester Area Trust, Charity Number 504453 Richard said, "The intention is that *The Wall of Answered Prayer* will be a beacon of hope to people, and provoke conversation around prayer. Not everyone of course will warm to the religious aspect of the project, but it is our aim that all will be able to appreciate the architectural art in itself".

A million people will be invited to pay £10 towards a brick and tell a story about how Jesus answered their prayer.

Discussions with politicians and local landowners over a potential site for the new monument have now begun. Every brick in the structure will be matched by an additional brick donated for social housing in the UK and overseas.

Grants will also be made to individuals and / or organisations engaged in good works. Planned to be completed in 2023, the structure is expected to equal the size of 62 semi-detached houses and could be built adjacent to a motorway.

Designs from five architectural practices have been shortlisted by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

The team working on the project will now be encouraging people to contribute experiences of answered prayer to go on the bricks. The idea is that people driving pass this iconic structure will be able to see that Jesus has answered a million prayers.

For further information visit: <http://thewall.org.uk>



A Smile is the same in all languages.  
If you meet somebody without a smile  
Give them one of yours.