

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).

REGULAR WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Monday	5.00 - 6.00pm 6.00 - 7.15pm 7.00 - 8.30pm	Rainbows (5-7 years) at Radford Road Brownies (7-10 years) at Radford Road Guides (10-15 years) at Radford Road
Tuesday	2.00pm	Friendship Circle
Wednesday	11.00am 12.30pm	Coffee Morning Wednesday Lunch alternating with Mid-Week Worship
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 2018



THE MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

The wilderness experience

This season of Lent seems to put some Christians into a time of uneasiness: they've decided to give up some 'pleasure' (often chocolate!) as a symbol of self-denial or resistance to temptation and, if they're a regular church-goer, their vicar or preacher each Sunday in Lent goes on to them about 'wilderness' and the need to 'reflect upon your relationship with God. There's nothing inherently wrong

with any of those things, but they can weigh heavy and result in us feeling guilty rather than reflective. Possibly that's because we have the wrong view of 'wilderness,' or, more importantly, what was achieved there.

In a wilderness there are few distractions, no food (definitely no chocolate!), nothing to occupy the mind and if you're there on your own, no-one to share things with. And 40 days is a long time! And writing as one who has never really 'got' retreats, even only day retreats at a comfy retreat centre, I would ask, 'Why would you want to go into a wilderness for a 40 day retreat?' In Jesus' case, it was the last vital part of his 'formation', it helped him to become the man his Father wanted him to be. A final practical confirmation that he finally understood, through doing.

In the wilderness all became clear, all fell into place in his mind.

So if you struggle to understand what God wants of you, struggle to make sense of the world today, need help in making an important decision can I suggest that you might subject yourself to a 'wilderness' experience, but only for a day, sometime during Lent? Choose a suitable date; if your health allows it, have a light breakfast but then drink water but don't eat any food until your evening meal. See if you can spend that day in an 'unfamiliar' place – can you go somewhere different or where you can be quiet? A park, into the countryside, a museum, art gallery, library, or perhaps a busy shopping centre would be an unfamiliar wilderness to you. If you can't go out, can you spend the day in a different room to your usual room?

Take your Bible with you and see what God prompts you to read: then just think and pray about what you have read – imagine yourself in the 'stories', what can you see, smell, hear? What do you learn anew, what does God, or Jesus, say to you through the words you have read? Jesus has shown us that even through unease or discomfort the wilderness can be an enlightening place!

See what comes clear and falls into place for you. I will be doing so for myself too.

Andy
Rev Andy Laird

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MINISTER (URC)	Rev. James jamesichurch@hotmail.com
ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret B
CHURCH TREASURER	Tina
ORGANIST	Margaret H
MID-WEEK WORSHIP	Jane
WEDNESDAY LUNCH	Veronica
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	Margaret H Ruth
PROPERTY	Bridget Andrew
RAINBOWS	Bridget
BROWNIES	Bridget
GUIDES	Rebecca
BEAVER SCOUTS	Matthew
CUB SCOUTS	Janet
SCOUTS	Alec
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Deb
GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Louise
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk

ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Mar 4	Joan	John & Ruth	Valerie	Tony
Mar 11	Sue	Sally & Veronica	Bella	Rosemary
Mar 18	Jherell	Brenda & Alan	George & Margaret H	Kath
Mar 25	Sarah	Janice & Julia	Margaret B	Margaret B
Ap 1	Ann	Jane & Jean	Rosemary	Rosemary
Ap 8	Veronica	Sarah & Marian	Jane & Frank	Hazel

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.

NEW DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION

General Data Protection Regulations **The new Data Protection Regulations come into effect in May and churches have now received detailed advice about the implications of this new ruling.**

Regulations **The new regulations will not only affect the publication of personal information which is printed in this Magazine, in the Sunday News Sheet, on emails and on our website but will also affect how personal data is stored in all areas of church life.**

Marjorie would welcome your contributions and suggestions for the April Magazine by Sunday March 18th at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk or phone 427451.

FAMILY NEWS



Ken made headlines in the national newspapers recently when, for the very first time, he sank a hole in one on the golf course! For forty years Ken has played golf and, even now, as a nonagenarian, he often rises at 5.30am to play his beloved sport three times every week. Well done, Ken, we all share your delight. We gather he has had 44,000 hits on the club's Twitter page as a result of this achievement.

Bon voyage to **Bridget** as she sets sail on the tall ship, 'Tenacious', and travels from Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands, through the Southern Atlantic Ocean to South Georgia. Here Skip Novak, the renowned explorer, will join the crew and share his experiences and insights into sailing these waters. The ship will then head for Cape Town stopping en route at Tristan de Cunha, the most remote inhabited archipelago in the world. The final destination is Cape Town and the crew will see the vibrant city, Table Mountain and Robben Island.

We landlubbers will follow Bridget's journey on our computers and will be delighted when she is home again!

Please remember

those who have suffered bereavement.

Please comfort the families and friends who grieve.

those who are ill.

We ask that they will soon be restored to full health.

those who have worries and anxieties.

Give them peace and comfort in the knowledge that you are close to them

You are asked to pray for all those known to you who are ill or who have worries or concerns. In particular please remember

Jane and Frank

Anne and Kingsley

Joyce H

Rob and Chris

Mavis P

John F

At our last Congregational Meeting there was a suggestion that our Quiet Room should be available for the whole community to use as a quiet and peaceful retreat for private prayer. The Elders were asked to discuss the idea further.

St. John the Baptist Church is exploring a similar idea and has already started to open the Lady Chapel for people to gather for prayer from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. on Friday afternoons with the possibility of groups meeting at other times by arrangement. They welcome the whole community to share in this initiative.

OUR COVER PICTURE



Easter Love

At Easter we celebrate love,
love coming down from heaven,
love blanketing the earth
in a transforming embrace;
unique and infinite love,
giving more than we can imagine
for us, to cleanse our sin,
a perfect sacrifice, Lamb of God,
the walking, talking Word.
He is teacher, role model, friend,
this God in human form,
dying, then rising from the dead,
proving all who believe
will also rise
to have eternal life, with Him,
Lord of all.
Oh, Happy, Happy Easter!

By Joanna Fuchs

*Printed with kind permission of Joanna Fuchs
<http://www.poemsource.com/>*

LENT GROUP AT RADFORD ROAD CHURCH

The Revd. Andy Laird is organising a joint Lent Group for Radford Road Church and Dale Street Church on Mondays at 2.30pm.

The course has now started and will continue on
5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March.

Booklets (£6 approx.) are available.

MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY REPORT



The painting in the flower room, toilet and hall area has been completed apart from the gloss. This is now on hold until the weather improves.

The painting has started in the vestibule area.

The outstanding items are:

The roof at the back of the church needs attention.

The trees in the car park have been cut back but the wall needs to be repaired.

Lights in the Church – there is no date for this until there is money in the Church account.

Positioning of a shelf in the quiet room.

: Tiling behind the water heater in the vestibule kitchen

As far as I know all other works have been completed. If you are aware of any work that needs doing then please let Andrew Cligg, Alan Watts or Bridget Halpin know.

Bridget Halpin

FILM CLUB

On Thursday March 22nd at 2.00pm you are invited to see

“No Reservations”

Here is a love story that ends, "and they cooked happily ever after." It's the story of Kate, a master chef who rules her kitchen like a warden, and Nick, perhaps equally gifted, who comes to work for her and is seen as a rival. Since Kate is played by the beautiful Catherine Zeta-Jones and Nick by the handsome Aaron Eckhart, is there little doubt they will end up stirring the same pots and sampling the same gravies?

Tea and cakes will be served £2.00 per person.

Request for the loan of DVDs

If you have a DVD which you think would be suitable to show at the Film Club and you are willing to loan it, please see Hazel or Marjorie.

Films should be suitable for our audience and should have a running time of not more than two hours.

FOODBANK CHAMPION 'THE TRUSSELL TRUST' MOVES INTO CHURCH HOUSE

Members of Britain's largest food bank network have moved into the United Reformed Church's London office. The Trussell Trust's external affairs team moved into Church House in early January, and will continue to carry out its vital work. The charity, which is based on Christian principles, gave 1,182,954 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis, across the UK, from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 compared to 1,109,309 the previous year. The charity works with people of all faiths and none, and is inspired by Jesus' words as in Matthew 25:35-36: 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

The Trussell Trust joins Greenbelt – the arts, faith and justice festival – which moved into the building in September, as Church House's top floor residents.



A METHODIST MINISTER HAS BEEN HONOURED AS GOSPEL DJ



A minister from London has won an award for spinning the gospel! The Revd Tony Miles won the 'International Honouree' award that was presented at the Spin Awards 2017, for his Premier Christian Radio show 'Saturday Quiet Time'. The ceremony was held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA and was established to honour those who spin the gospel message.

Tony is the Deputy Superintendent Minister at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster and is also a regular contributor to 'Pause for Thought' on BBC Radio 2 on Vanessa Feltz's Breakfast Show. The Revd Miles said: "This was a very unexpected start to 2018. It is humbling to receive the award."



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

26th Feb-11th March - Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight aims to put a spotlight on trade. When trade is fair it has the potential to improve the lives of the farmers and workers who grow our food. When trade is fair, it can make the world a better place. Together we have that power, so get involved and be part of the difference.

It's a shocking fact that millions of poor farmers who produce the food we love still don't earn enough to feed their own families. It's time for this injustice to end.

Please buy Fairtrade products whenever you shop.

The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story book in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects.

This year the Easter story-activity book, included in the large milk and dark egg, is A5 in size and has 24 pages. The drawings are beautiful and will delight children and adults. The book is illustrated by award winning artist Martina Peluso and contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities. Over its 24 pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



PLEASE SUPPORT FAIRTRADE

MISSION PROJECT NEWS

Last year we raised £1000 for the Mission Aviation Fellowship towards the purchase of an Amphibious Cessna 208 plane to be used in Bangladesh. We are delighted to hear that the plane has now been purchased. For two weeks only, this beautiful aircraft will be in the UK and free tickets are available to view it and to meet the team in the Conservation Hall at the Imperial War Museum on 24th March from 10.00am - 4.00pm. See <https://www.facebook.com/131891836851920/posts/1850086058365814> If you wish to see the whole museum tickets must be purchased.

This would be a wonderful day visit for anyone able to travel to the museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire CB22 4QR.

Please continue to support this year's Mission Project for the Peace and Reconciliation work of the Revd. Clive Fowle in Bosnia and Serbia.

Breaking news: we have nearly reached our £1000 target!.

MOTHERING SUNDAY MARCH 11TH 2018

Rudyard Kipling wrote "God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers".

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' held on the fourth Sunday in Lent and celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods, and other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated.

With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring the Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken.

In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years Mothering Sunday often resembles the secular American Mothers' Day, with families taking their mother out for Sunday lunch.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY MORNING

It is planned to organise a children's Easter Activity Morning on Thursday April 12th. However, this can only happen if we have more adult helpers. Please consider if you are able to spare three hours to do this. Give your name to Margaret B or to Jean or just have a chat with them to find out what is involved. You will find that the morning is most enjoyable and you will have lots of fun.

Regrettably, if we do not have sufficient helpers it will necessitate cancelling the event.

MORE QUIPS FROM JENNY

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

HYMN STORIES - Revd. John S. B. Monsell



*Fight the good fight with all thy might;
Christ is thy Strength and Christ thy Right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.*

John Samuel Bewly Monsell, born in Ireland in 1811, was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and graduated in 1832. His first post was as curate of Templemore, Derry (1834-1836), and, after holding a number of ecclesiastical positions, including vicar of Egham, Surrey, he became rector of St Nicholas' Church, Guildford, in 1870, and Chaplain to Queen Victoria (1870-1875).

He was a prolific poet and hymn writer, publishing eleven volumes of poetry and approximately three hundred hymns. His books included *Hymns and Miscellaneous Poems* (1837) and *Litany Hymns* (1870), but he is best remembered for the hymn *Fight the good fight with all thy might* which first appeared in 1863. Only this and three of his other hymns are still sung today. Despite the first line, this hymn is not a Christian battle-song in the style of *Onward Christian Soldiers* or *Soldiers of Christ arise*. Rather, it is a call to faithfulness. Each of the verses is based on a verse from the Epistles. The first echoes 1 Timothy 6:12, "*Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life.*" The second, with its athletic connotation, follows Hebrews 12:1, "*Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*"

*Run the straight race through God's good grace,
Lift up thine eyes and seek His face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the Path and Christ the Prize.*

The third verse is from 1 Peter 5:7, "*Cast all anxiety on him, for he cares for you*"; and the fourth from Colossians 3:11, "*Christ is all, and is in all.*"

Monsell believed that hymns should be enthusiastically sung and full of joy. He wrote: "*We are too distant and reserved in our praises.*"

In 1875, whilst supervising the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Church, Guildford, he slipped and fell from the roof, and died shortly afterwards from his injuries.

Eddie Newell

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 Project for Peace & Reconciliation in Serbia	16th	Uniformed Organisations
2nd	Women's World Day of Prayer	17th	Junior Church
3rd	John C	18th	John F
4th	Joyce L	19th	Clarice
5th	Jessie	20th	Valerie
6th	Elders of the Church	21st	Mavis P
7th	Mid-Week Worship & Wed. Lunch	22nd	Film Club
8th	Night Shelter volunteers	23rd	Gill & Derek
9th	Jane & Frank	24th	Street Pastors
10th	Big Breakfast	25th	Margaret S
11th	Hilda & Ken	26th	Friendship Circle
12th	Kingsley & Anne	27th	Maureen
13th	Clare	28th	Cynthia, Henry, Casey Ivy
14th	Jean I	29th	Rob & Family
15th	Andy & James	30th	Andi B
		31st	Joyce H

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



THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST



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.
February's total: £67.50

The next Big Breakfasts will be on Sat. March 10th and Sat. April 14th at 9am. The following month the Big Breakfast will be on **May 19th** (NOT May 12th) and will be the day of The Royal Wedding. You are invited to enjoy your bacon and eggs (or what you will) and stay with your friends to see the wedding on the television screen. We will toast the happy couple with a sparkling non-alcoholic wine, and nibbles and tea and coffee will be available. Also at this event our **Auction of Promises** will be launched with the auction culminating at the Craft Fair on October 6th. This means that Promises need to be given to James by the end of April so that a suitable display can be made. We need lots of promises so please consider what you can offer.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

Saturday 17th March, 2018 9.45 for 10.00am

Leamington to Whitnash (3.5 miles)

Meet and eat at The New Inn, Leam Terrace.

Leaders: Mike and Anne Bench

More details will be on the vestibule notice board.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Women's World Day of Prayer Annual service will be at 2pm on Friday March 2nd at St Mary Magdalene Church, Lillington. This year the service has been prepared by the women of Suriname on the theme "All God's Creation is Very Good". Both women and men are most cordially invited.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Good Friday, March 30th meet at 11.45 am at Holy Trinity to begin the Procession with the Cross to Christchurch Gardens.

12 noon: Open air service and Raising of the Cross, in Christchurch Gardens.

Easter Sunday, April 1st 6.30am Sunrise service on Campion Hills, Leicester Street followed by breakfast at St. Mark's Church, Rugby Road, Milverton.

MARCH DIARY 2018

Fri	2	2.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Lillington
Sun	4	10.30am	The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Sam McBratney
Mon	5	2.30pm	Lent Group
Tues	6	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. John Harris
		7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Wed	7	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch & Mid-Week Worship
Fri	9	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	10	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	11	10.30am	Mothering Day Service led by the Revd. James Church
Mon	12	2.30pm	Lent Group
Tues	13	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Margaret Weir
Wed	14	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Songs of Praise DVD: "Tolkien, Jane Austin and William Blake!"
Fri	16	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	18	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Miss Betty Blower
Mon	19	2.30pm	Lent Group
Tues	20	2.30pm	Friendship Circle - Margaret Height "Visit to Portmeirion"
Wed	21	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch & Mid-Week Worship
Thurs	22	2.00pm	Film Club "No Reservations"
Fri	23	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	25	10.30am	Palm Sunday All-Age Service led by the Revd. Jemima Strain.
Mon	26	2.30pm	Lent Group
Tues	27	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. Andy Laird: Holy Week meditation with Holy Communion
Wed	28	11.00am	Coffee Morning
Fri	30	12.30pm	Wed. Lunch: Holy Week Worship led by Revd. James Church
		11.45am	Good Friday- Silent Witness Procession and the Raising of the Cross in Christ Church Gardens

OTHER FORTHCOMING SPECIAL DATES

- 26 Feb. Fairtrade Fortnight begins and continues until 11th March
 25 Mar. UN International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

HELPING HANDS

A story taken from "The Parish Window" a free resource on the web

A mother, wishing to encourage her son's progress at the piano, bought tickets to a performance by the great Polish pianist Ignace Paderewski. When the evening arrived, they found their seats near the front of the concert hall and eyed the majestic Steinway piano waiting on the stage. Soon the mother found a friend to talk to, and the boy slipped away.

At eight o'clock, the lights in the auditorium began to dim, the spotlights came on, and only then did they notice the boy - up on the piano bench, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." His mother gasped in shock and embarrassment but, before she could retrieve her son, the master himself appeared on the stage and quickly moved to the keyboard.

He whispered gently to the boy, "Don't quit. Keep playing." Leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in the bass part. Soon his right arm reached around the other side and improvised a delightful obligato. Together, the old master and the young novice held the crowd mesmerized with their blended and beautiful music.

In all our lives, we receive helping hands - some we notice, some we don't. Equally we ourselves have countless opportunities to provide helping hands - sometimes we would like our assistance to be noticed, sometimes we don't. Little of what we all achieve is without learning from others and without support from others and what we receive we should share.

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 1ST

We will be turning our Lenten Cross into a Living Cross of Flowers. You are invited to bring a small bunch of flowers with you on that day so that they can be placed on the cross during the service.



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.