

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	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 Mid-Week Worship
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



April 2018

THE MINISTER'S LETTER



To the Family of God at Radford Road Church,
We are coming to the end of Lent and the start of Holy Week, and the high point of the Christian year, Easter Sunday! It is the day that we celebrate the wonderful news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and rejoice in the hope that we have, because of his resurrection.

This year, for the first time since 1956, Easter Sunday falls on April Fools' Day, but when we declare 'Christ is risen' and the response, 'He is risen indeed, hallelujah' our words are not some practical joke, hard as it may have been for the first disciples to accept! Long after lunch had passed, the disciples were inspecting an empty

tomb, and wondering about reports of those who had seen Jesus alive again.

If there is a joke concerning that first Easter, it is not played on fearful doubting disciples or on the faithful few at the empty tomb, but rather on the powers and principalities of the world. For at the cross Jesus took upon himself the powers of sin and death, and triumphed over them. As St. Paul declared to the Church in Colossae, 'having disarmed the powers and authorities, he (Jesus) made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross' (Colossians 2:15).

The joke was upon those powers and authorities, both political/religious and those in the spiritual realm, who thought that evil, violence, and death could defeat God's purposes. Those who thought that the suffering of crucifixion could silence the Lord's Anointed and that death would have the final word. That first Easter morning, the empty tomb left them looking like fools, realising that the joke had been on them.

For the disciples, as news of Jesus resurrection dawned on them, hope returned and sorrow lifted like the morning dew, as they began to understand all that Jesus had spoken to them. Life, vision, and passion were rekindled in their hearts, as they gave their lives afresh to the Lord of all life; and to the mission of Jesus that would sweep across the ancient world and change the course of history forever.

This Easter we stand as the latest of those disciples, as we declare joyfully that 'Christ is risen', and sing our songs of victory. We will be singing long after Easter Day and into eternity. For as the Ecuadorian missionary and martyr, Jim Elliott, wrote, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose".

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, this Easter and always. Amen. (based on Romans 15:13).

James

MINISTER (Methodist)	Revd. Andy andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk
MINISTER (URC)	Revd. 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
Ap 1	Ann	Jane & Jean	Rosemary	Rosemary
Ap 8	Veronica	Sarah & Marian	Jane & Frank	Hazel
Ap 15	Rosemary	Jherell & Sally	Jean	Jean
Ap 22	Julia	Veronica & Bridget	Ann	Kath
Ap 29	Joan	John & Ruth	Jenny M & Janine	Tony
May 6	Sue	Brenda & Alan	Hazel	Hazel
May 13	Jherell	Jean & Janice	Joyce L	Margaret

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 on May 25th and churches have now received detailed advice about the implications of this new ruling. 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 May Magazine by Sunday April 22nd at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk.

FAMILY NEWS



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

Mavis P Clarice Joyce L Jessie John F Jane & Frank

John C would like to thank everyone for their prayers, love and visits during his short stay in hospital and during his recovery. One of his cards said “Hip, Hip, Hooray!”

We are sad to report the death of **Joyce H** on March 11th. Joyce was an active member of Emmanuel URC/Methodist Church, Redditch and served as a Local Preacher before she moved to Homewood in Leamington Spa and made Radford Road her spiritual home. She regularly attended Sunday services and the Wednesday Lunch Group at Radford Road Church until her health deteriorated in recent months.

Bridget is sailing the high seas on ‘Tenacious’, one of the tall ships. The ship left the Falkland Islands and is now in the South Atlantic heading for its final destination in South Africa.

THE STREETS OF LONDON, AND OF LEAMINGTON, ARE PAVED WITH GOLD, (or, at least, with £10 notes!)

Two years ago Rob was at King’s Cross Underground Station in London during the evening rush hour when he spotted a £10 note on the pavement. Though there were lots of commuters about, many of whom were walking over it, no one else noticed it. Rob picked up the note and put it into the Radford Road Christian Aid collection.

Recently, on a very snowy day in March, he was in Russell Terrace in Leamington on his way to the station when he found another £10 note! This time Radford Road Church Sunday collection benefitted.

Rob must have his feet and eyes firmly on the ground!

Rob also tells the story of the hole in the wall ATM machine which he visited in Cubbington recently to withdraw money. The severe weather conditions had caused snow to blow into the card slot where it froze. He was unable to insert his card. He says it was a high tech cash machine defeated by a low tech natural event!

You seem to do better at looking down on the pavements for cash, Rob, than relying on modern technology!

OUR COVER PICTURE



Prayer is a basic part of life as a Christian. We pray in church, at home, together, on our own...

We offer thanks to God, ask his forgiveness when we get things wrong, pray for people we care about and much more. Often we pray on the spur of the moment, responding to situations as we meet them. Choosing to pray in a disciplined way, is a step further in life with God.

There are lots of patterns of prayer which we can use. One thing is vital if you're going to build a pattern of prayer – time. It doesn't need to be a lot, but you need

to set aside at least a few minutes regularly, and to make yourself do it – even if that means leaving some other things undone.

Get yourself comfortable, and don't feel that you need to rush straight into praying. Often it helps to spend a few moments being still and breathing deeply to let your mind slow down a bit.

Then comes the praying part. If you're trying to get started in this, why not use the prayer Jesus taught us? It's both a wonderful prayer in itself and a great pattern for our own prayers.

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be your Name. Your Kingdom come,

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

From early on in the church, it's been recommended that we stop to pray this prayer at least three times a day – on rising, at mid-day and in the evening.

Try praying it slowly and thoughtfully this way for a few days.

Then take a bit longer, and perhaps once a day, stop after each line to think and pray about the kind of things the prayer mentions. So after 'Our Father in heaven' just take a moment to think about God – what do you believe he is like? Ask him to help you to know. After 'Hallowed be your Name', think of three things to praise and thank God about. Think through what each line of the prayer means, and spend a few moments praying about those things.

Try this for a week, and see how you feel about prayer then!

The Revd. Nick Watson

(used, with permission, from The Parish Window)



MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY REPORT

Our Maintenance Team has been busy over the last month and the following work has been undertaken:

- 1Repaired leaking gutter joint & renewed gutter pipe to rear of hall
- 2Tiled corner behind water boiler in church kitchen
- 3Unblocked gents w.c. pan in church toilets
- 4 Secured carpet in Church Centre entrance
- 5 Re-fixed stay on vestibule door
- 6 Carried out PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) on all electrical equipment
- 7 Overseen the painting of rooms in the church which has given the property an uplift.

Andrew Cligg

The church is grateful for the time and effort which the Property Team devote to keeping our premises in good repair. Their expertise and willingness saves the church a lot of money.

Editor

FILM CLUB

On Thursday April 26th at 2.00pm you are invited to see

"Salmon Fishing in Yemen"

When Britain's leading fisheries expert is approached by a consultant to help realize a sheikh's vision of bringing the sport of fly-fishing to the desert, he immediately thinks the project is both absurd and unachievable. But when the Prime Minister's overzealous Press Secretary latches on to it as a "good will" story, this unlikely team will put it all on the line and embark on an upstream journey of faith and fish to prove the impossible, possible. --

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.

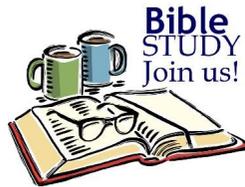
Films should be suitable for our audience and should have a running time of not more than two hours.

EASTER FEELING

The Easter feeling does not end.
It signals a new beginning,
Of nature, spring, and brand new life,
And friendship, peace, and giving.
The spirit of Easter is all about hope, love, and joyful living.

Author Unknown

HOUSE GROUP BIBLE STUDY



Meets 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.

WALKING THE WAY

A great deal has been going on since the official launch of Walking the Way, the United Reformed Church's focus on lifelong Christian discipleship. Simon Peters, Walking the Way Project Manager, is now particularly focused on gathering real-life examples of where discipleship is already being nurtured around the country – local churches, projects and members are encouraged to get in touch with their stories about how they're walking with Jesus in everyday life. These will be used to inspire others. You can contact Simon Peters by email or call on 020 7520 2718 to share your good news.



340 URC ministers and Church Related Community Workers will attend a national Ministers Gathering in Staffordshire from 30th April to 3rd May. There will be an extensive programme of workshops, networking, and talks from keynote speakers including; the Revd Dr Rowan Williams, currently Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and the Revd Dr Peggy Kabonde, General Secretary of the United Church of Zambia. The event is a consultation about the Walking the Way process, an introduction of new resources, and a means of fostering an atmosphere where ministerial colleagues can contribute creatively to planning for change

CIRCUIT FAREWELL TO THE REVD. ANDY LAIRD

A Circuit Farewell Service is planned on July 29th at 4.00pm at Dale Street Methodist Church to mark the retirement of the Revd. Andy Laird . Andy has had responsibilities in several of the churches in the Circuit and has been the Methodist Minister at Radford Road since September 2011. Andy's last Sunday at Radford Road will be 1st July.

GIFT DAY

Sunday June 24th

followed by a Jacket Potato Lunch

Please let Margaret B know if you would like to stay for lunch.
Proceeds for the repairs to the church roof.

SHAZAM CONCERT

Saturday May 5th 2018 at 7.30pm

Another Shazam Concert is coming! It's back by popular request! These concerts, featuring music from Cliff Richard and The Shadows are always extremely popular.
Tickets: £7.50 (concessions £6.00) are available from George & Margaret H or on the door.
Proceeds to be shared between Myton Hospice and Radford Road Church.

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week 2018 is May 13th - 19th and is the biggest single act of Christian witness in Britain. Radford Road Church will be appealing for collectors, walkers and sponsors to raise money for this very worth-while cause. Please consider how you can help and have a word with Bridget, our CA representative, and remember the work of Christian Aid in your prayers.

CAN YOU KNIT A CHRISTMAS ANGEL?



Yes, we know it is only Spring but we need lots and lots of knitted Christmas angels!

During Advent we plan to place the angels in telephone kiosks, public places, shops and even in bus shelters.

Each angel will have a "Please take me home" tag attached to it together with a card which will invite the finder to attend our Christmas services. The more angels

we can distribute the better and this is a novel way of encouraging new people from our local community to visit our church.

Knitting patterns, kindly supplied by Jenny (of Knitted Bible Stories Exhibition fame) are available in the vestibule - please take one and use white double knitting wool or White Twinkle DK wool and 3mm needles to make an angel. It would be lovely to have a heavenly host of angels to spread around the town at Christmas time!

Marjorie

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 church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00pm - prayer and medication to follow.

HYMN STORIES - Dorothy Frances Gurney

*O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,
lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,
that theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
whom thou in sacred vow dost join in one.*

*O perfect Life, be thou their full assurance
of tender charity and steadfast faith,
of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance,
with childlike trust that fears no pain or death.*

*Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow;
grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife;
grant them the vision of the glorious morrow
that will reveal eternal love and life.*



Dorothy Gurney

Dorothy Frances Gurney was an English poet and hymn writer. Born in London in 1858, Dorothy and her Anglican clergyman husband, Gerald Gurney, converted to Catholicism in 1919.

Although best known for her poem *God's Garden* which is the source of the verse often seen on garden plaques, bird baths and sundials: *One is nearer God's heart in a garden/Than anywhere else on earth*, she also wrote the hymn *Oh Perfect Love, all Human Thought Transcending* for her sister's wedding in 1883. It soon became popular, especially in London, where it was used at many fashionable weddings, including those of royalty.

Spiritual insight into the meaning of hymns isn't always easy. However, in his book *The Gospel in Hymns*, Albert Bailey points out that in this hymn, *'the Lord Jesus Christ is given two titles that are of special significance in marriage - 'perfect love' and 'perfect life'*. He concludes that these titles speak of two great ideals which are important in every marriage; motive and performance. If these ideals are honoured and obeyed they will yield joy and peace in any marriage. Perhaps it is also worth noting that Mrs Gurney certainly brought out the truth that human love cannot begin to compare with God's love; which *'transcends all human thought'*.

She died in 1932 and the London Times printed the following tribute: *'Thousands of people at thousands of weddings must have sung, or heard sung, O Perfect Love, without ever knowing that Mrs Gurney was the writer.'*

Eddie Newall

(used, with permission, from The Parish Window)

PRAYING TOGETHER IN APRIL

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

1st	Our Mission Project	16th	The Uniformed Organisations
2nd	The family & friends of Joyce H	17th	Junior Church
3rd	Kingsley & Anne	18th	John F
4th	Mid-Week Worship & Wednesday Lunch	19th	Clare
5th	Jessie	20th	Valerie
6th	The Elders of the Church	21st	Mavis P
7th	Clarice	22nd	The Street Pastors
8th	Cynthia, Henry, Casey & Ivy	23rd	Gill & Derek
9th	Joyce L	24th	The Friendship Circle
10th	Jean I	25th	Margaret S
11th	Hilda & Ken	26th	The Film Club
12th	Children's Activity Morning	27th	Maureen
13th	John C	28th	The Night Shelter volunteers
14th	Big Breakfast	29th	Rob & Family
15th	Andy & James	30th	Andi B

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.



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.
March's total: £101.15 (a record to date!)

The next Big Breakfast will be on Saturday 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 there will be an opportunity for you to make a promise for our **Auction of Promises** which will be held at the Craft Fair on October 6th.

Perhaps you can bake a cake, do someone's shopping or gardening, give a treat of afternoon tea for two, share a craft or offer something entirely different.

If everyone can offer something then we will have a fantastic auction which will boost our Craft Fair total.

CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

Saturday 21st April 2018 9.45am for 10.00am

AROUND UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK CAMPUS.

The walk is about 3.5miles.

Meet at multi-storey car park 8, University of Warwick.

Eat at The Varsity or The Green Man, Kenilworth.

Leader: Stanley I

More details will be on the vestibule notice board.

WARWICK DISTRICT FAITHS FORUM

ANNUAL FAITHS TRAIL.

Saturday 7th April 2018.

A visit to **COVENTRY CATHEDRAL** followed by lunch at the Gurdwara Sahib Temple, Leamington.

Meet at Gurdwara Sahib Temple at 9am to board the coach.

The day is free to attend but you must register by contacting Jatinder B

Details of the programme are on the vestibule notice board.

APRIL DIARY 2018

Sun	1	6.45am	Leicester Street, Campion Hills: Sunrise Communion and Fellowship Breakfast Service led by the Revd. James Church & Phil Overton
		10.30am	The Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	3	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - No meeting
Wed	4	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch & Mid-Week Worship
Fri	6	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	8	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	10	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - John Cotterill "Heritage Steam Railways"
Wed	11	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by a talk by PC Marie Holt "How to keep safe". (postponed from Feb. 28 th)
Thurs	12	9.30am	Children's Activity Morning
Fri	13	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	15	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Chris Clewlow
Tues	17	2.30pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. Peter Powers
Wed	18	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch & Mid-Week Worship
Fri	20	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	22	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	24	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. John Harris
Wed	25	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wed. Lunch followed by a talk by a Christian Aid speaker.
Thurs	26	2.00pm	Film Club "Salmon Fishing in Yemen"
Fri	27	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	29	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Andy Laird

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.

FORTHCOMING SPECIAL EVENT

13-19 May - Christian Aid Week - www.christianaid.org.uk Please give your offers of help to Bridget.

THE RAINBOWS' SLEEPOVER

Sixteen Rainbows and Brownies with four leaders enjoyed the sleepover on February 17th 2018. This time it was only Radford Road Rainbows and Brownies as work commitments made it impossible for the Dale St. leaders to be present.



We began our activities with a construction project. The girls made a den out of cardboard tubes and then developed their own ideas using cardboard, based on a winter theme.

The winter Olympics event was much in the forefront of their thoughts as the girls made a bobsled and proceeded to race it round the hall. We went to bed around 10pm but in the strange environment some of the girls struggled to get to sleep. The leaders went to bed before they all settled! On Sunday it was an early start with the first girls waking about 6am although the leaders tried to stay in bed until 7.30am. We did craft activities before the Church service. It was lovely to see five girls make their Rainbow promise in front of the congregation on Sunday morning and I think the enthusiasm with which all the Rainbows answered the questions from the minister showed they had enjoyed themselves. It was a great sleepover with the girls keen to help with all the tasks and to look out for each other.

Bridget

PERSONAL DEDICATION OF HYMN BOOKS

The Church now has 12 new copies of Singing the Faith, 6 in ordinary print and 6 in large print. If anyone would like to dedicate a copy with a printed label inside, e.g. 'In memory of a loved one', please see Margaret Height, Ruth Eyles or one of the Elders. Those who wish to dedicate a hymn book are invited to make a donation (amount of their choice) to Church funds.