

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

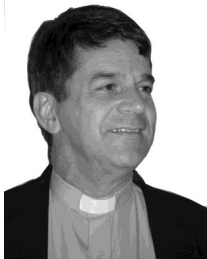
Radford Road Church
Leamington Spa
CV31 1NF

Magazine



May 2018

THE MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

Life in abundance - #standtogether

Jesus said, 'I have come that you might have life, and have it in abundance' (John 10:10). As many of us continue to feel the reality of paying more tax and price rises affecting our pay packets and purses in a bad way, many of us could say we are poorer in real terms than we were. But I think poverty is relative. In this country there are lots of people who struggle to make ends meet and consider themselves to be in

poverty and relying on foodbanks but, by and large, our benefit and social care systems, along with charities, make sure most people have at least a roof over their heads and food on their tables.

Contrast that position with people overseas who have no welfare state (so no pension of benefits), no money and no food or clothes unless they beg and scavenge on rubbish dumps; where small children, beggars and scavengers also, sleep under the stars in busy cities huddling together for safety and warmth. Picture also the desperation of African farmers and their families who are forced to eat now the grain they should have been keeping for seed and next year's harvest, just to survive today. That is real poverty. It saps energy, it saps hope, it saps life.

May 13th sees the start of Christian Aid week. Christian Aid has been helping people to lift themselves out of poverty for more than 70 years. 'Poverty is an outrage against humanity', they say, 'It robs people of power over their own lives.' The big thing about the way Christian Aid works is that it does all its work in partnership. They spend their money through local organisations on the ground who understand the causes of poverty and how to fight it in their own situation. Because they don't give funds to Governments, they avoid corrupt regimes and know all their money goes to the people who need it. It's our money they need to do this.

The good news is that we can be a part of this bigger Christian Aid picture too. When we give our time, money and energy in Christian Aid Week, we are looking beyond ourselves and enabling others to do what to us seems impossible. This bigger picture is the world as it could look if we allowed the kingdom of God to be a reality, if we really believed in abundant life for all and are prepared to do something to help make it happen. It's the world that Jesus showed us in his life and ministry: a world where we stop living for ourselves and start living for others, a world where we don't put limits on love and justice, a world in which the question "who is my neighbour?" is clearly answered and startlingly redefined. We are asked this year to ***stand together*** with our impoverished neighbour by Christian Aid.

So please will you be generous when you have an opportunity to give your time and/or your money to support Christian Aid in Christian Aid Week? Please can you distribute and/or collect some envelopes, perhaps with someone else if you can't manage on your own? Why not put your own relative poverty into the context of the very real poverty felt by so many around the world and give from your plenty. Please will you give someone else the chance to have life out of your abundance?

Andy

Rev Andy Laird #standtogether

MINISTER (Methodist)	Rev. Andy andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk
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
May 6	Sue	Brenda & Alan	Hazel	Hazel
May 13	Jherell	Jean & Janice	Joyce	Margaret
May 20	Sarah	Margaret B & Jherell	Tina, Debbie & Pat H	Jean
May 27	Ann	Veronica & Sally	Pat & Kath	Kath
June 3	Veronica	John & Ruth	Mavis M	Rosemary
June 10	Rosemary	Brenda & Alan	Brenda T	Tony

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.

Marjorie would welcome your contributions and suggestions for the June Magazine by Sunday May 20th 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, Jessie, John F, Jane & Frank and Gill & Derek.



On Sunday 8th April 2018 **Casey and Ivy**, the children of Cynthia and Henry, were baptised during the morning service. The church has been praying for Ivy since her premature birth and we all rejoiced on this special occasion.

The two Godparents, Maxwell and Dora, made promises to support the parents and their children in the Christian faith. The Revd. James

Church conducted the baptism and each child was presented with a candle and a Children's Bible.

Congratulations to **Diane**, daughter of Margaret B, who married **Amy** on April 6th 2018.

Mavis P is anxious to attend church but needs transport to get to Radford Road each Sunday. If anyone is able to help in this way please contact Mavis.

Sue Darlison would like church friends to note that her phone number has changed to 01926 941562.

Little Stars Christian Pre-School, which meets at the Baptist Church, is seeking a new Trustee to join the team.. Further details are available on the notice board in the Vestibule.

The Serenity Prayer

God, grant us the serenity
To accept the things we cannot change,
Courage to change the things we can,
And wisdom to know the difference.

OUR COVER PICTURE



During Christian Aid Week, people come together from all walks of life to step out in support of the world's poorest communities.

For more than 60 years, Christian Aid's amazing supporters have organised thousands of fabulous Christian Aid Week events. From holding house-to-house collections, sponsored walks and church collections, to taking part in Big Brekkies, abseils and quiz nights, this support makes Christian Aid's work possible.

We all believe that the world can and must be changed and that we are each called to love every one of our fellow human beings.

Together, we can raise money to support our poorest brothers and sisters around the globe, pray for justice and witness at the heart of our communities.

Christian Aid supports people of all faiths and none, and invites all those who can to support the work of Christian Aid, especially during this special week. Bridget, our Christian Aid organiser, will be appealing for House to House collectors and for walkers and sponsors for the Sponsored Walk around the Jephson Gardens.

Please, prayerfully consider if you are able to volunteer to help with this vital work.

Give us, Lord God,
a vision of your Kingdom as your love desires,
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry,
a world where life is shared, and enjoyed by all,
a world where all races, nations and cultures live in tolerance and respect,
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build your Kingdom here and now.
Amen



CHILDREN'S EASTER ACTIVITY MORNING

On April 12th 2018 a group of children visited Radford Road Church for some Easter activities.

There were lots of craft activities and the children also made cakes. The children were very keen to take part in the story telling and all were very energetic and were dancing and singing as Sarah C. taught them new songs.

It was a really nice fun day for all of us. Though it was pouring with rain that day, the children still came and eagerly joined in all the activities. I was stationed in the prayer hands craft and it was really fun hearing all their stories while they did all the activities.

Jherell

There are pictures on the web site of this event. Look on the News or Activities tab.

Pat L. attended a family funeral recently and the following poem was read during the service. Pat was moved by the words and wanted to share the verse with others.

I'M NOT GONE

I'm not gone,
I'm still the same person I was before.
When you walk down the street
I'm one step behind,
When you watch television,
I still sit by your side.
I listen to your conversations,
Laugh at your jokes
And smile as you remember the good times.
I'm not gone.
I'm the breeze that rustles the trees in our garden,
When you cry I put my arm around you,
I join in when you sing our songs.
I sit at the end of your bed at night,
And when you wake up,
I'm just waiting.

This is not the end, just a new chapter.
I dance next to you at parties.
When you're happy, I'm happy.
I sit in the back seat of the car,
I'm the reflection in the window
And I hold open the door.
I'm not gone.
So don't stop being you, carry on.
If you meet someone new,
I'll still hold your hand.
I'm always with you, by your side.
I still breathe in your perfume,
And run my fingers through your hair.
Soon we'll be together,
But, until then,
Take care.

Author unknown

IT WAS JUST A CARD

When I visited my nephew, then a vicar in Suffolk, a year ago I was prevailed upon to stay an extra day as the clergy from the deanery were going by coach to visit Mother Julian's chapel in Norwich and there was a spare place for me.

In the bookshop there I bought an attractive postcard with the well known words of Mother Julian 'All shall be well, and all shall be well; all manner of things shall be well'. I put the card in my prayer book and there it stayed until several months later I received a phone call from one of my Northumbria Community friends asking me to pray for her. Her life, she said, was falling apart, she had lost her job and temporarily, at least, her faith. She felt, she said, completely at sea. I remembered the card and sent it to her with a message of support on the back, and she put it in her Bible.

Several weeks later she phoned me again. this time to say she was about to start a new job, her life had got back together again and prayers had been answered. Then she told me about the card. She had woken up one morning and suddenly felt prompted to take it out and put it in her window of her front room which faces on to the street - the card could be clearly read from outside. A week later there came a knock on her door and a strange young man was standing there, said he'd read the words on the card and could he come in and talk to her. Rather hesitantly, she invited him in and offered him a cup of tea. He told her he'd won a scholarship to Oxford University but found the pressure too much and had suffered a severe nervous break-down. My friend, having had a similar experience, was able to help him and he went away more hopefully than he had set out.

At a 'Churches Together' meeting a week or two later she met the boy's mother, who told her that her son had not spoken one word to her or anyone since coming home from Oxford until that day he'd read the card and come into my friend's house for help. He was now fully recovered and had recommenced his studies, this time successfully. A series of coincidences - or was it the intervention of the Holy Spirit? What do you think?

Joy Gadsby

Article used, with permission, from The Parish Window

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.

GIFT DAY

Sunday June 24th

Over the last few months, we have had major work done to the fabric of the building including repairs to the roof. To help meet this expenditure the Elders have decided to hold a Gift Day. This will be on Sunday June 24th when we will be holding a Jacket Potato Lunch following morning service. The jacket potatoes will be served with various fillings. Numbers will be needed for catering purposes.

Please stay and enjoy lunch and fellowship with friends as we raise money for the upkeep of our building.

Please give generously. Special Gift Day envelopes for your donations will be available with June's magazine.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The law changes on May 25th regarding General Data Protection Regulations. These changes affect how the church stores your data, how long it is kept and your rights of access to your data. There will also be a Data Privacy Statement. The Elders are working towards making sure the Church is compliant with these new regulations by that date. Personal data that is held is for church use only and is not shared with any third parties. It is not shared in the magazine or on the web site without specific permission. Christian names only are used in the Magazine, the Sunday News Sheet, the Prayer Diary and the Prayer Book, and details of health issues are not disclosed. Hopefully, this will reassure people. If you have any concerns about data protection please talk to one of the Elders. There will be an update in the June Magazine.

CHRISTMAS ANGELS



People are getting underway with the knitting of angels for Advent. The angels will be placed in telephone kiosks, public places, shops and even in bus shelters in the town. Each angel will have a "Please take me home" tag attached to it together with a card giving greetings from Radford Road Church and inviting 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. You can use your own knitting pattern or pick one up together with a small bag of wadding from the vestibule and get those needles clicking!

Marjorie

WARWICK DISTRICT FAITHS FORUM Visit to Coventry Cathedral

A coach load of friendly happy people of all faiths and none, were welcomed at St. Michael's House, Coventry Cathedral. by Canon Sarah. They heard an interesting account of the cathedral's work of peace and reconciliation which began after the bombing of the cathedral in November 1940. The Community of the Cross of Nails has 200 partners and 335 member organisations,. The aim is to heal the wounds of history, live with difference and celebrate diversity and thus build a culture of peace.

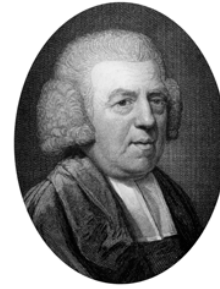
A new initiative, '**TOGETHER FOR HOPE**', will be launched on Friday 4th May at 10.30am to enable secular organisations and other faiths to be supported in their work for reconciliation. It will welcome its first multi-faith partner, '**FAITHFUL FRIENDS, SANDWELL**', a group of eight faith and community leaders who are hoping to build a community of reconciliation which will become a positive cross-cultural influence in Sandwell. More information can be seen on the vestibule notice board.

After cakes and coffee supplied by the Mothers Union, a sharing in the Litany of Reconciliation and a conducted tour of the Cathedral, the group returned to the Gurdwara Sahib in Leamington for a delicious lunch and tour of the temple.

MORE QUIPS FROM JENNY

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.



HYMN STORIES – John Newton (1725 – 1807)

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*

John Newton crammed a lot of living into his 82 years. His mother died when he was six years old, and he joined his father at sea when he was eleven. He served his apprenticeship as a sailor, and rose through the ranks until he became the captain of a slave ship. He abandoned the religious training that he had experienced as a child, and revelled in the dissolute life of a slave trader. He was noted for his profanity and his cruelty, and was even known as 'The Great Blasphemer'.

But one stormy night off the coast of Donegal, when his ship had been holed and was in danger of sinking, and he was in danger of drowning, Newton had a real change of heart. Newton called out to God as the ship filled with water. After he called out, the cargo flowed out and stopped up the hole, and the ship was able to drift to safety. It might have been his religious training at his mother's knee surfacing after all those years - or it might have been his love for Mary Catlett, a Christian woman whom he later married - or it might have been his reading of the book, *Imitation of Christ*, by William Law - or it might have been all three.

In any event, Newton had a real conversion experience. However, as he was to admit later, "*I cannot consider myself to have been a believer, in the full sense of the word.*"

For a while, Newton continued on his slave ship, but he began to treat both the slaves and his crew with a good deal more compassion. Finally, convinced that the slave trade was wrong, he left his ship and took a job onshore.

He then felt a call to the ministry, and was ordained at the age of forty and assigned to a church at Olney, Buckinghamshire. Newton wrote many hymns, including *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds* and *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*, but he is best remembered for *Amazing Grace*, which is in a sense Newton's own story. It was amazing grace that saved him, and it was amazing grace that was the focus of his preaching.

He continued in ministry through the rest of his long life, even after failing eyesight made it impossible for him to read. Newton never ceased to be amazed by God's grace and, nearing the end of his life, told his friends, "*My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour.*"

Eddie Newall

(used, with permission, from The Parish Window)

PRAYING TOGETHER IN MAY

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

1st	Mission Project supporting Clive's work of Peace and Reconciliation	16th	The Uniformed Organisations
2nd	Jessie	17th	Junior Church
3rd	Kingsley & Anne	18th	John F
4th	Wed. Lunch & Mid-Week Worship	19th	Big Breakfast
5th	The Shazam Concert	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	24th	The Film Club
10th	Jean I	25th	Margaret S
11th	Hilda & Ken	26th	The Friendship Circle
12th	Andy & James	27th	Maureen
13th	John C	28th	The Night Shelter volunteers
14th	Clare	29th	Rob & Family
15th	Christian Aid	30th	Andi B
		31st	The House Group

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.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

Praise in the Park - June 3rd at 11.00am

This is a wonderful outdoor service, full of life and commitment, where young and old of different denominations worship together in the Pump Room Gardens to celebrate Pentecost. Bring along your garden chairs and rugs and join in this informal event. Why not bring a picnic too?

Please note: Radford Road Church will hold the normal Sunday morning service at 10.30am.

CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

Saturday 19th May 2018, 9.45 for 10am

KENILWORTH AND ABBEY FIELDS

Meet at Castle Farm Recreation Centre, Fishponds Rd., CV8 1EY.

Lunch at The Green Man

Leader: Edward McP.

More details will be on vestibule notice board.

Report about the Good Friday “Raising of the Cross” Service and the Easter Morning Sunrise Service

About 150 people gathered together round the Cross at Christchurch Gardens on Good Friday to worship together. The short service was led by the Revd Nick Stanyon, the URC Synod's Evangelist Minister.

On Easter Sunday morning at 6.30am, 55 people met for the Sunrise Communion Service on the Campion Hills led by the Revd. James Church. Both services were very moving and it was good to take time out to celebrate these special days. We thank James and Nick for agreeing to lead us amid their busy schedules.

THY KINGDOM COME

Thy Kingdom Come is a global initiative, in which Christians are called to pray for the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost. We are invited to pray for God's Spirit to move within the church, equipping us to share God's love with others and to pay attention to how God is speaking to us today.

You can use these daily prayers, readings and reflections at any time of the year.

To find out more about Thy Kingdom Come, visit:

www.thykingdomcome.global or

www.methodist.org.uk/thykingdomcome

MAY DIARY 2018

Tues	1	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Revd. Andy Laird
Wed	2	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Mid-Week Worship
Fri	4	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	5	7.30pm	SHAZAM CONCERT
Sun	6	10.30am	The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Andy Laird
Tues	8	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Chris & Margaret from the Night Shelter
Wed	9	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch - Return visit of Pilgrim Puppets This small group of people use puppets to give a performance of "Miracles". All are welcome. If you would also like to come for lunch please let Veronica know.
Fri	11	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	13	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church Christian Aid Week begins
Tues	15	2.30pm	Friendship Circle - Members' Afternoon. Letter "S"
Wed	16	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Mid-Week Worship
		2.45pm	Mission & Outreach Planning Meeting
Fri	18	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	19	9.00am	Big Breakfast. (Note change of date) Stay to see the Royal Wedding on TV (See page 9)
Sun	20	10.30am	The Sunday Service for Pentecost led by Mrs Julie Gardner
Tues	22	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Margaret H "Popular Hymns & their Authors"
Wed	23	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Songs of Praise DVD from the Lake District and Cornwall
Thurs	24	2.00pm	Film Club "La La Land"
Fri	25	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	27	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Mrs Julie Gardner. (this is a change from the Plan as the Revd. James Church is on holiday)
Tues	29	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - No meeting
Wed	30	12.30pm	Mid-Week Worship

FILM CLUB

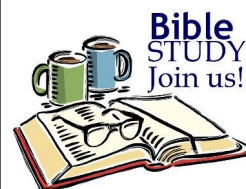
On Thursday May 24th at 2.00pm you are invited to see

"La La Land"

La La Land is a 2016 American musical romantic comedy film starring Ryan Gosling as a jazz pianist and Emma Stone as an aspiring actress. They meet and fall in love in Los Angeles while pursuing their dreams. The film's title refers both to the city of Los Angeles and also to being out of touch with reality.

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

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.



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.

April's total: £61.50

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 bubbly, 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. Do think what you can promise and fill in the chart on May 19th.