

## SUNDAY SERVICES

**10.30 am THE SUNDAY SERVICE**  
*Holy Communion - first Sunday of each month*

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

## REGULAR WEEKDAY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Monday	5.00 - 6.00pm	Rainbows (5-7 years)
	6.00 - 7.15pm	Brownies (7-10 years)
	7.00 - 8.30pm	Guides (10-15 years)
Tuesday	2.00pm	Friendship Circle
	7.30pm	Rangers
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 <sup>nd</sup> . Saturday)
	10.00am	Christians Together in Leamington Ramblers (monthly)

### EASY GIVING

**Ask Margaret B to refer you and we could earn an extra five pounds the first time you spend £5 with Easy Giving.**

HELP US to raise **FREE** funds with your everyday shopping online through easyfundraising.

Over 3,500 big-name retailers such as Argos, John Lewis, Boden, Apple, Confused.com, ASOS, even Amazon and eBay all give free donations when you make an online purchase with them.

**THIS IS FREE MONEY for us and doesn't cost you a penny**, so make sure we don't miss out when you shop online!

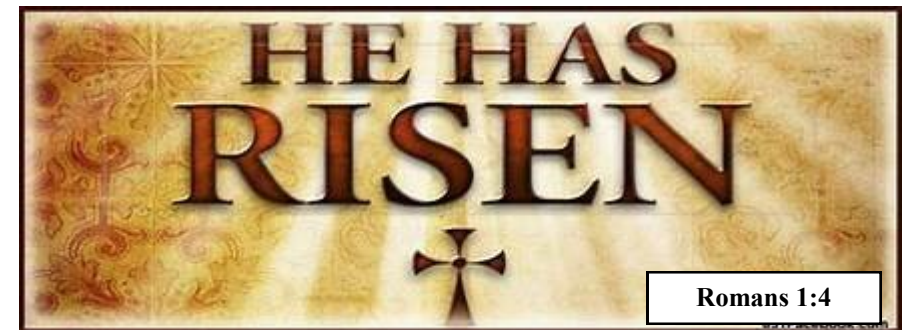
This 60 second video shows you how easyfundraising works:

<http://efraising.org/cv1Wj5Bman>

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

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

*Magazine*



**April 2019**

## THE MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

We all thought that April would be the first month of life outside the EU for the United Kingdom. As I write, the deadlines are being shifted and the chaos seems to be deepening. Our politicians are in gridlock and the country is still divided. The uncertainty created by the Brexit process does not see signs of ending any time soon and there is a palpable anxiety gripping the population.



We begin this month in Lent and will finish in Eastertide. So accustomed are we to the story that, as we head towards Good Friday, we are already planning for Easter Day. It is hard for us imagine what it was like for the first disciples, whose sense of uncertainty and anxiety as they witnessed the arrest, trial and execution of their leader must have been profound. They had no real conception of what resurrection would mean and so were plunged into despair by the events of the first Good Friday.

Waiting is hard work, and worse when we do not know the outcome. Whether it is the outcome of a parliamentary vote, or the results of blood tests, we can find ourselves letting the anxiety of uncertainty take hold of us until it paralyses us. The message of Easter is one of reassurance and it speaks to our anxious hearts. It says, first of all, that waiting is an important part of Christian discipleship. We are not offered certainty in the Gospel - because certainty is the opposite of faith. Instead, we are offered an invitation to a journey of discovery and the faithful companionship of our brother, Jesus. There is no promise of an easy path but our companion continually offers guidance, strength and courage.

Easter also reminds us, though the path is long, and often rocky, there is a destination. We have no idea how long we will have to wait, but we do know that, in the end, we will arrive. This is the firm hope of faith: that the One who voluntarily entered into suffering and death, is also the One who was raised and lives forever. In this Easter story, we discern the pattern of creation - that the end is never death or despair, but new life and hope.

Alleluia! What a Saviour!

Sam

MINISTER (URC)	Revd. James Church jamesichurch@hotmail.com
MINISTER (Methodist)	Revd. Sam McBratney s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk
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	Emma
RANGERS	Sarah
BEAVER SCOUTS	Matthew
CUB SCOUTS	Matthew
SCOUTS	Malcolm
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Mark
ACTING GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Mark
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk

## ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
Ap 7	Veronica	Bridget & Jherell	George & Margaret Height	Hazel
Ap 14	Julia	Jean & Sally	Margaret B	Margaret B
Ap 21	Sue	Margaret & Julia	Ann	Jean
Ap 28	Joan	John & Ruth	Jenny M & Janine J	Tony
May 5	Jherell	Brenda & Alan	Hazel	Hazel
May 12	Ann	Veronica & Jherell	Tony	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.

And finally,

*If you see someone  
without a Smile,  
give them one of yours!*

**Marjorie would welcome your contributions and suggestions for the May Magazine by Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: [carrier\\_mj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk)**

## FAMILY NEWS



**Please remember in your prayers**

**those who have suffered bereavement.**

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.

Please especially remember **Clarice, Jane & Frank, Ralph P, John F, Mavis P and Gill**. Unfortunately Gill had to miss her granddaughter's wedding as she was admitted to hospital a few days earlier. Gill has now returned to Homewood.

Several people who do not now live in Leamington Spa enjoy reading our Church Magazine which they receive via email. Among these people are **Rev. Elgin and Nancy Crewe**. They often reply with a little message when they receive our monthly news. Sadly, Nancy is far from well and, despite two operations last year, has mobility problems and is in a lot of pain. Please remember them both in your prayers

Welcome back to **Geoff** who, with his wife, **Ann**, has spent 7 weeks in South Africa visiting relatives and friends. The congregation all appreciated the sweets that Geoff brought back for us!

### **Did you Know....?**

50% of people polled in December 2018 say they never pray (down from 54% in 2017).

The proportion of people who say they pray a few times a year grew from 10% to 15%.

One in four people in the UK is aged 65 and over. Life expectancy is projected to be 86 years for boys and 88 years for girls.

Half of all girls born in 2066 will be expected to live to 100.

There were 1,198,094 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by police in England and Wales in the year ending March 2018.

45,000 is the estimated number of children educated outside of a traditional school environment.

There are 472 Christians in the current US Congress. The current Congress includes the first two Muslim women to serve in the House of Representatives.

*This content was first published in Reform magazine: [www.reform-magazine.co.uk](http://www.reform-magazine.co.uk)*

## OUR COVER PICTURE



The meaning of Easter is Jesus Christ's victory over death. His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in him. The meaning of Easter also symbolizes the complete verification of all that Jesus preached and taught during his three-year ministry. If he had not risen from the dead, if he had merely died and not been resurrected, he would have been considered just another teacher or Rabbi. However, his resurrection changed all that and gave final and irrefutable proof that he was really the Son of God and that he had conquered death once and for all.

However, Easter did not always symbolise Christ's resurrection from the dead and the meaning of Easter was quite different from what Christians celebrate today. The feast day of Easter was originally a pagan celebration of renewal and rebirth. Celebrated in the early spring, it honoured the pagan Saxon goddess Eastre. When the early missionaries converted the Saxons to Christianity, the holiday, since it fell around the same time as the traditional memorial of Christ's resurrection from the dead, was merged with the pagan celebration, and became known as Easter. The meaning of Easter was also changed to reflect its new Christian orientation. Today, the meaning of Easter, for millions of Christians, is that of honouring and recognizing Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and his glorious promises of eternal life for all who believe in Him.

Jesus is Lord, enthroned above,  
Who gave this gift of perfect love,  
Who bled and died to save us all,  
Now reigns supreme as Lord of Lords.

M S Lowndes

## HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

Submitted by Rosemary Moore

As I was walking down life's highway many years ago  
I came upon a sign that read Heaven's Grocery Store.  
When I got a little closer the doors swung open wide  
And when I came to myself, I was standing right inside.  
I saw a host of angels. They were standing everywhere  
One handed me a basket and said "My child, shop with care".  
Everything a human needed was in that grocery store  
And all you could not carry you could come back that day for more.  
First I got some Patience. Love was in that same row.  
Further down was Understanding, you need that everywhere you go.  
I got a box or two of Wisdom and Faith a bag or two.  
And Charity, of course, I would need some of that, too.  
I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost It was all over the place.  
And then some Strength and Courage to help me run this race.  
My basket was getting full but I remembered I needed Grace,  
And then I chose Salvation for Salvation was for free  
I tried to get enough of that to do for you and me.  
Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill,  
For I thought I had everything to do the Master's will.  
As I went up the aisle I saw Prayer and put that in,  
For I knew when I stepped outside I would run into sin.  
Peace and Joy were plentiful, the last things on the shelf.  
Song and Praise were hanging near so I just helped myself.  
Then I said to the angel "How much do I owe?"  
He smiled and said "Just take them everywhere you go."  
Again I asked "Really now, how much do I owe?"  
"My child", he said, "God paid your bill a long, long time ago."

[Author Unknown -- from 'E-Mail Ministry']

## CALLING ALL KNITTERS

Please keep those knitting needles clicking!  
We are knitting angels for distribution in Advent and  
also hats, gloves and scarves for Christmas gifts for  
the Night Shelter clients.  
It's never too early to start knitting!





## FILM CLUB

Do come along on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm when you can see  
**“Big Fish”**

This film follows the incredible life of Edward Bloom, through a series of flashbacks that begin when his son Will visits him for the last time. Edward is dying of cancer, and Will hasn't spoken to him for years because he believes him to be a liar that never really cared for his family. As Edward's story unfolds once again, Will tries to finally understand the truth about who his father really was...

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



## THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST is on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am



Come along and bring your friends  
and smell the sizzling bacon as you come through the door.  
March Big Breakfast raised £43.55

We have now reached our target of £1000 for this year's Mission Project. Well done everyone! Money raised in the next 3 months will be used to replace the cooker in the church kitchen so that Big Breakfast and other food related activities can continue.

## A WORD OF WARNING!



The Regency Run, which raises money for good causes, will take place on the morning of Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>. Consequently many of the streets in central Leamington will be closed or a one way system will operate.  
Please allow plenty of time to get to church on that day!

## BOOK LAUNCH: “FROM A MOTHER’S PEN”

As part of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Susanna Wesley, a new book has been published, 'From a Mother's Pen: Selections from the spiritual writing of Susanna Wesley'.



The book is to be launched on  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm in Wesley's Chapel, London.

As a wife and mother in a small 18<sup>th</sup> century English parish Susanna Wesley herself received little recognition for how she managed her household, bore 19 children, though 9 died as infants, raised and educated the others and coped with a sometimes impecunious, idealistic and occasionally difficult clergyman husband. Yet from her personal influence and loving home came a son who would experience a spiritual awakening and use that inspiration to begin a ministry that would fill a void in the national spiritual life and also develop into a world wide church. Indeed, it might be said that the movement called Methodism had its foundations in the home of Susanna Wesley.

*Source: 'Susanna Wesley Mother of Methodism' by Anne Adams*

## MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY REPORT



WiFi has been fitted throughout the premises – if you would like access please ask me for the password.

A stronger magnet has been fitted to the Church centre kitchen door so the door can only be closed by pressing the switch by the magnet or turning off the electrical power.

The cross at the front of the Church and the Church kitchen have both been fitted with LED lights.

The locks on the main Church door and the door leading to the balcony have been swapped as the main door key went missing on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Future work:**

The new notice board will be fitted on the left hand side of the outside notice board.

The outstanding work from the insurance review i.e. the lightning conductor test and the electrical work following the electrical wiring checks, will be undertaken.

Bridget



### ALL ARE WELCOME

**Starting on Tuesday April 30<sup>th</sup>  
from 10.00am to 11.30am.**

We plan to open our building to anyone who would like the opportunity to talk with others whilst enjoying a free cup of coffee and a toasted teacake.

We plan to work in conjunction with Grapevine, an organisation which endeavours to help those who are vulnerable and lonely.

**If you have any table games (draughts, chess, Connect 4 etc.) that are in good condition but which you no longer use, or if you have any magazines of interest for people to look at, please give them to Marjorie for use by the group.**

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

**Good Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>** Meet at 11.45am at Holy Trinity to begin the Procession with the Cross to Christchurch Gardens.

**12 noon:** Open Air Service and the Raising of the Cross in Christchurch Gardens.

**Easter Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> 6.30am** Sunrise Service on Campion Hills, Leicester Street, followed by breakfast at Lillington Free Church.

### CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019 9.45am for 10.00am

**AROUND LONG ITCHINGTON** (approx. 4 miles)

Meet at the village green/pond area in Long Itchington.

The walk will be followed by an optional lunch at The Bowling Green Pub, Southam.

**Leader:** Dave B

### FAITHS TRAIL SATURDAY APRIL 13TH - FREE EVENT

Meet at 9.15am at Ahmadiyya Mosque & Community Centre Baitul Ehsan, Riverside, Leamington Spa, CV32 5AH for coach at 9.40am to Wappenbury. Visit St. Anne's Catholic Church and St. John Baptist Church.

The coach then leaves at 12.00 noon to visit Baitul Ehsan, Ahmadiyya Mosque & Community Centre and this will be followed by lunch.

You need to register in advance by emailing names of all people wishing to attend to: [wdfaitsforum@yahoo.com](mailto:wdfaitsforum@yahoo.com)

People may join the Faiths Trail at any venue.

For further information about this event or the WDFP, please contact  
Jatinder S. B.

### ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE:

18 books of the Bible were hidden in one paragraph.  
Did you find them all?

Someone once remarked upon the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept some people looking so hard for the facts for others it was a revelation. Many were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers, though to others it was still a really hard job and those chose a different strategy. We want it to be a most fascinating moment for you. Yes, there will be some difficult ones to spot. Others will require the brains of judges to help to identify them. One lady says she brews a cup of tea so that she can concentrate better. We will admit that it usually takes a minister to find the last of them. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are eighteen books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One vicar found seventeen books in minutes but it took him three weeks to find the eighteenth, in his Biblical CD **ROM answer** file!

So many people have said that they enjoyed last month's puzzle so here's another one to keep you thinking!

### THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE

Can you solve fifteen anagrams of the Books of the Old Testament?

Burns me  
Chair haze  
Eds jug  
Evil is cut  
Hail Mac  
Hurt  
I jam here

On gloom of sons  
Our needy Tom  
Rich clones  
See sign  
Select as Ices  
Threes  
Tom anneals it  
Used ox



**Bible  
STUDY**  
Join us!

### HOUSE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

**meets each Friday at 135, Leam Terrace  
at 7.30pm**

The Group would welcome others to join them.  
Please see James for further details.

## 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	Elders of the Church	16th	The Uniformed Organisations
2nd	Valerie	17th	The Friendship Circle
3rd	The family of Jessie	18th	John F
4th	Gill	19th	Joyce
5th	Nick	20th	Our Minsters & families
6th	Ken	21st	Mavis P
7th	Peggy	22nd	Sally, Andrew & Sally's Mum
8th	Lillington Free Church	23rd	The Night Shelter volunteers
9th	Clapham Terrace School	24th	Children's Activity Morning
10th	Clare	25th	Film Club
11th	The Street Pastors	26th	Clarice
12th	Wed. Lunch & Mid-Week Worship	27th	Maureen
13th	Big Breakfast	28th	Ralph
14th	House group	29th	World Bicycle Relief
15th	Kingsley & Anne	30th	All Are Welcome

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 them. 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.

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY MORNING

April 25<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – 12 noon

An invitation is extended to all children of Primary School age to come along to another exciting morning of activities, The theme will be "The Road to Emmaus".

The children will enjoy stories, craft work, drama and songs to help them remember the story of how Jesus appeared to the two distraught disciples after the fateful day when they had seen him crucified.

If you are able to be present to welcome the children and their parents and possibly to help with the activities, then please let James or Margaret B know.



### STRETCH & PRAY

The Revd. Jemima Strain has been running Stretch & Pray sessions successfully in other parts of the Circuit.

Now she is bringing these gentle stretching exercises combined with some time of meditation and prayer, to the churches in our area of the Circuit.

A new 12-week course will start at Warwick Methodist Church on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 7.30pm until 8.30pm and each session will cost £3 per person. You are invited to attend a free taster session on either the 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> April at the same venue and at the same time as the course proper.

### PEREGRINES RETURN

The Peregrine Falcons are nesting on the top of the Town Hall for the second year running. Last year they raised all four healthy chicks and it is hoped they will be equally successful this year.

The first egg was laid on March 18<sup>th</sup> and the others followed at approximately 2 day intervals. The female bird starts sitting when she has laid the last egg and the incubation period is 29 to 32 days so the chicks should hatch during the fourth week of April. Several members of our congregation are watching the transmission from the two live cameras on the nest. Why not log in and watch these magnificent birds on the Warwick District Council website: <https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/falcons>.

## APRIL DIARY 2019

Tues	2	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Marjorie - Knitting my way through Nursery Rhyme Land
Wed	3	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Mid -Week Worship - Revd. Rachel Hextall
Fri	5	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church</b>
Tues	9	9.30am	Welcome to children from Clapham Terrace School
		2.00pm	Friendship Circle - George Jones
Wed	10	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch: - Lent theme led by the Revd. James Church.
Thurs	11	7.30pm	Pastoral meeting at the home of Margaret B
Fri	12	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	13	9.00am	Big Breakfast
		10.00am	Faith Walk
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Sam McBratney</b>
Tues	16	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Holy Week Meditation with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church
Wed	17	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Mid -Week Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church
Fri	19	7.30pm	Good Friday House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Easter Day Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Sam McBratney</b>
Wed	24	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch: - Speaker:-Walter Goodman of Christian Aid
Thurs	25	9.30am	Children's Activity Morning
		2.00pm	Film Club "Big Fish"
<b>Sun</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Sunday Service led by the Revd. Audrey Simpson</b>
Tues	30	10.00am	All Are Welcome Coffee & Toasted Teacake morning
		2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Andre Rieu DVD

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Plans are already in hand for the following activities. Please put them in your diaries and give your support.

**Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm** Last Night of the Proms

**Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 11.00am - 2.00pm** Craft Fair

**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Daily 2.00pm - 4.00pm** Nativity Exhibition.

This is a big event when Nativities from all round the world will again be on display.

However, we do need help from people who can serve light refreshments and people who are willing to be available to welcome and chat to visitors.

### PULPIT EXCHANGE

As the Mid-Warwickshire and the Stratford and Evesham Methodist Circuits are to combine and will be called the South Warwickshire Circuit, the two present Superintendents have agreed to exchange pulpits so that each of them can become more familiar with all the churches in the larger area. Consequently there will be some changes to the Plan as Pulpit Exchanges are made.

The service which was originally to be led by Revd. Peter Powers on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Radford Road Church will now be led by the Revd. Audrey Simpson and Peter will lead the service at Bidford on that day.

### VISIT OF CHILDREN FROM CLAPHAM TERRACE SCHOOL

On April 9<sup>th</sup> we will be welcoming a group of children from Clapham Terrace School who will be visiting Radford Road Church.

The theme for the visit will be Easter and during the hour spent at Radford Road the children will be told the Easter story, sing songs and do an Easter craft activity.

### CHRISTIAN AID

**Christian Aid Week 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019**



This is the biggest single act of Christian witness in Britain. Radford Road Church is appealing for collectors, walkers and sponsors to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

#### House to House Collection

Our Church is responsible for house-to-house collections on the whole of the Sydenham estate and some other areas of the town. This is a mammoth task and the more volunteers we have the easier the task becomes.

Could you spare an hour or two to go with others or by yourself and knock on doors to collect the envelopes? A sign up sheet is in the Church vestibule.

#### Walkers and Sponsors

Radford Road is organising a sponsored walk around Jephson Gardens.

Date to be decided.

Please sign up if you would like to walk or sponsor the walkers.

The forms are on the board in the Church vestibule.