

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 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	10.00am	All Are Welcome
	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 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



June 2019

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Due to a coming together of various lunar and solar calendars, the month of June this year will begin with a number of major religious festivals. On 4th (or perhaps 5th, depending on cloud cover) Eid ul-Fitr will begin, the joyous end of the Ramadan month of fasting for Muslims around the world. We will see our Muslim neighbours in new clothes for the occasion and children with new toys, symbols of a spiritual fresh start. If we are brave, we might even wish our neighbours, 'Eid Mubarak!' - have a blessed Eid!

On the weekend of 8th to 10th June, Jewish people will celebrate the feast of Shavuot, or Weeks, not only an early Harvest Festival, but also a celebration of the giving of Torah on Sinai. A special time to remember who they are as a people and give thanks for God's ongoing provision, protection and direction.

And, of course, for Christians, we move from Ascension Sunday to Pentecost and bring the season of Eastertide to a close. A time to celebrate the gift of the Spirit and the continual presence of the risen Christ, and to reaffirm our place in God's ongoing mission in the world.

This week of celebrations reminds us of how much we share as faith communities and human beings. We are all the children of one God, and are called to worship and service in God's name. We are made out of an unconditional love that calls us into relationships of deep interdependence.

Since 1972, 5th June has also been designation World Environment Day, a reminder that we also share one fragile home. There has been much talk in recent days, of a climate emergency, something we are all too aware of from listening to the experiences of our Christian sisters and brothers in the Pacific and the Tropics. The changes in global climate are punishing the most vulnerable. Already, low-lying island communities are becoming refugees as their beloved homes slip beneath the rising tides. Extremes of weather are wiping out precious crops and leaving families and whole communities on the brink of starvation.

All is not lost, but we, as people of faith living in the richest part of the world, must commit ourselves to changing our ways to help the world's poor. Churches such as Stratford-on-Avon Methodist Church have taken the lead and we are delighted that Stratford will be joining us in the new South Warwickshire Circuit to share their work of tackling the climate emergency. From reducing plastic use to turning off unwanted lights, we can do our bit and affirm our willingness to share our planet, not just with our neighbours, but also our grandchildren.

Have a wonderful June,
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
June 2	Veronica	John & Ruth	Pat & Kath	Kath
June 9	Sue	Sally & Julia	Mavis M	Margaret
June 16	Joan	Brenda & Alan	Brenda T	Jean
June 23	Jherell	Jean & Veronica	Gill	Rosemary
June 30	Sue	Jherell & Julia	Ken	Tony
July 7	Rosemary	Margaret & Sally	Veronica	Hazel
July 14	Julia	John & Ruth	Valerie	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 July/August Magazine by Sunday June 23rd at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: 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 and especially those in our prayer book

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 those in our own congregation who are experiencing difficulties including **Joan B, Ann B. Gill, Ralph, Jane & Frank, Mavis P. and Ken. Anne & Kingsley** are in our thoughts and prayers as they face decisions about the future.

The Methodist Circuit has announced that **the Revd. Sam McBratney** will continue to serve at Roehampton University and part time in our Methodist Circuit until 2022. He will be moving into the Methodist Manse in Whitnash.

On May 19th during the morning service we said our farewells to **Fiona Elvins** who has been a URC student Minister with us for the past 9 months. Fiona will soon be fully qualified and we wish her well as she starts her new vocation.

When Fiona arrived home after the service on May 19th she wrote:

Dear James and all the wonderful people at RRC

Thank you so much for the flowers and gifts you gave me this morning. It is so generous of you all and I thank you so much. My time with you all has been wonderful.

Thank you for today – the book is great and I am thrilled with the paint brush and angel. May God bless you all. Fiona x

We are all delighted that **Jherell** has now got her visa to enable her to stay in the UK for a further three years. She has now started her new work at Coventry and Warwickshire University Hospital as a nurse in the Neurological Theatre. She has particular interest and training in this area of medicine and we trust that she will be happy working in this specialised field.

Congratulations and a Happy Birthday to **John F.** who will celebrate his 106th birthday on June 7th.

Valerie would like to share some excellent news with all church friends.

Recently Valerie saw the consultant at the renal clinic. After having a blood test the consultant said, "I can't believe it! I haven't seen you for 8 months and at your age your kidney function should have deteriorated but it's got no worse. What are you doing? Someone must be praying for you!" Valerie knew, that as a church, we have been holding her in our prayers and that this was an answer to prayer. Valerie is absolutely thrilled at this outcome and would like to thank everyone for their love, support and prayers. Please continue to pray for Valerie.



OUR COVER PICTURE

Two days of inspiration and celebration

Leamington Peace Festival exists to promote peace, environmental harmony and living in co-operation with others.

It seeks to achieve these aims

- By raising awareness of world and local issues
- By giving individuals ways of becoming involved in the world around them
- By providing an opportunity for local crafts people to demonstrate their skills and display their crafts
- By promoting fair trade practices
- By encouraging local artists and entertainers to share their skills

The Leamington Peace Festival (LPF) is one of the UK's longest running free festivals. It takes place each year on the weekend before the Summer Solstice, filling the Pump Room Gardens, in the heart of Royal Leamington Spa, with a brilliant mix of family friendly activities, free workshops, Peace talks, live music, vibrant local stalls, campaign groups, healing treatments and a wide range of vegetarian food stalls.

The first festival, at the time called the Leamington Festival for International Understanding and Peace, was held in 1978. Conceived as a non-political, non-profit making event, its roots stem from previous festivals held with growing interest and success in the area, each basing its theme on aspects of Peace (Peace Pledge Union, Oxfam Festival and Leamington Spa Health Foundation). The Festival was an immense success thanks to the response of the local community, with over thirty organisations taking part in the first year. The main idea was to present, in a joyful way, the aims of various groups who work with dedication to bring a better quality of life to all people without distinction, both within the community and overseas.

As in the words of Gian Clare, one of the first organisers, the plan "was to bring all the like-minded organisations together to demonstrate to the Leamington people that is better to live together in harmony with one another as good neighbours and that we must work towards peace, justice, security and human rights for all".

Why not attend, or better still, volunteer, at this year's Peace Festival? Churches Together in Leamington is having a stand once again at this year's event and is looking for volunteers to staff the Prayer Tent for a 2 hour slot between 11am and 4pm. Please contact Hannah Jacobs (churchestogetherinleamington@gmail.com) if you are able to help.

In Latvia, Midsummer is called Jani (Janis being Latvian for John). It is a national holiday celebrated on a large scale by almost everyone in Latvia and by people of Latvian origin abroad. Celebrations consist of a lot of traditional and mostly pagan elements - eating Jani cheese (a special recipe with caraway seeds), drinking beer, singing folk songs dedicated to Jani, burning bonfires to keep light all through the night and then jumping over them, wearing wreaths of flowers (for women) and oak leaves (for men). People decorate their houses and lands with birch or sometimes oak branches and flowers, leaves and fern. In modern days small oak branches with leaves are attached to the cars in Latvia during the festivity.

In late 15th-century England, John Mirk of Lilleshall Abbey, Shropshire, gives the following description of Midsummer festivities. "At first, men and women came to church with candles and other lights and prayed all night long. In the process of time, however, men left such devotion and used songs and dances and fell into lechery and gluttony turning the good, holy devotion into sin."

The church fathers decided to put a stop to these practices and decreed that people should fast on the evening before Midsummer, and thus turned waking into fasting.

Mirk adds that at the time of his writing, "...in worship of St. John the Baptist, men stay up at night and made three kinds of fires: one is of clean bones and no wood and is called a 'bonnefyre'; another is of clean wood and no bones, and is called a 'wakefyre', because men stay awake by it all night; and the third is made of both bones and wood and is called 'St. John's fire'."

Geoff Quick (The Parish Window)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

Saturday 15th June 2019 9.45am for 10am

BRANDON, WOLSTON AND BRETTFORD (4.2 miles)

Meet at the The Royal Oak car park, Brandon.

An optional lunch at The Royal Oak will be available.

Leader: Richard P.

More details will be on the vestibule notice board.

WARWICK DISTRICT FAITH FORUM is planning to have a stand at the Peace Festival on June 15th and 16th and would welcome people who are able, to visit their gazebo.

THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

The summer solstice marks the peak of summer and takes place on the longest day of the year when the sun is at its highest in the sky. Solstice is derived from the Latin words sol (sun) and sistere (to stand still). In the northern hemisphere this takes place on 20th or 21st June. The summer solstice has been celebrated since ancient times and is still celebrated around the world today.

At the summer solstice there are many places in the far north, within the arctic circle where the sun never sets. These include parts of Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Iceland. Places known as the Land of the Midnight Sun.

The solstice is marked all over the world. Although there are differences between cultures, there are also some striking similarities. Many different cultures celebrate the solstice with bonfires. And many different places have monuments designed- so that during the solstice, they will line up with the Sun.

In Britain the solstice is famously associated with Stonehenge. When the sun rises on the day of the summer solstice, it lines up with one of the stones, called the heel stone, and its first rays shine through a stone archway in the centre circle. (Well sometimes!) Stonehenge dates back over 5,000 years ago, thousands of years earlier than Ancient Egypt or Ancient Rome.

Native Americans made a number of monuments that work in a similar way to Stonehenge. In Chaco Canyon, USA, there are some rocks called the three slabs, put there around 1,000 years ago. They are positioned so that during the summer solstice, the Sun shines in a dagger shape onto a spiral on the wall behind them.

There is a modern day henge in Nebraska, USA, called Carhenge - it is an exact copy of Stonehenge, except it is made out of old cars.

People across Europe have marked the solstice since ancient times with bonfires and celebrations dedicated to different gods. When Europe became- mostly Christian the festivals stayed but turned into a celebration of St. John the Baptist. To this day, Christians in many parts of the world celebrate St. John's Day on 24th June. Midsummer traditions are particularly important in geographic Northern Europe - Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Estonia-, Latvia and Lithuania.

The celebration of Midsummer's Eve (St. John's Eve among Christians) was from ancient times a festival of the summer solstice. Some people believed that golden-flowered mid-summer plants, especially Calendula, and St. John's Wort, had miraculous healing powers and they therefore picked them on this night. Bonfires were lit to protect against evil spirits. Rolling wheels of fire downhill is a tradition in some countries. The wheel is rolled to signify the sun rising to its highest point and at once descending again, representing the cycle of the seasons.

MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY REPORT



The lightning conductor has now been repaired.

The heating in the hall can now be controlled via Hive (through the internet). This allows remote access to the heating controls and eliminates the need for someone to be at the hall to regulate the heating system for groups using the hall.

Future work:

The electrical work to be completed following the electrical wiring checks.

It would be good to run another work party in the summer (July or August) to complete the painting of the toilets in the vestibule, to paint the outside shed and maybe the lower levels of the Church.

If you are able to help please can you give me your name.

Thank you
Bridget

**Pat L found this prayer, written by Iris Hesselden,
in the 2019 Friendship Book and wanted to share it with others.**

©Iris Hesselden

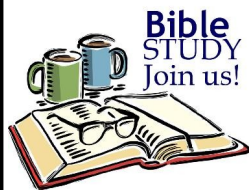
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Thank you, Lord, for bringing me
So safely through the night,
Through all the hours of darkness
Until the morning light.
Forgive me when I toss and turn
And sleep is hard to find,
I know I should depend on you
To give me peace of mind.

But just sometimes a troubled day
Can leave a troubled soul,
The problems all come crowding in
And often take their toll.
So be with me through every night
And guide me through the day,
Reminding me each moment, Lord,
You're never far away.

**The Editor is pleased to have poems submitted for publication BUT
written permission must first be obtained from the author or publisher,
otherwise the church could be liable for a very heavy fine.**

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.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CIRCUIT Inter-Church Walks 2019

The new Methodist Circuit is planning a series of walks between churches, starting with a prayer at one and finishing with a prayer and a cuppa at the other. You are invited to join in as many of the walks as you are able.

Sat 1st June	Bidford to Welford	4 miles
Sun 2nd June	Welford to Mickleton	6 miles
Sat 8th June	Tysoe to Kineton	5 miles
Sun 9th June	Fenny Compton to Knightcote	4 miles
Sat 15th June	Stockton to Whitnash	9 miles
Sun 16th June	Whitnash to Cubbington via Radford Road & Dale Street	6 miles
Sun 23rd June	Cubbington to Kenilworth	5 miles
Sun 14th July	Kenilworth to Warwick (Mid-Warwks Circuit - closing service at 3pm at Warwick)	5 miles
Sun 21st July	Henley to Stratford (Stratford & Evesham Circuit - closing service at 3pm at Stratford)	9 miles
Sun 8th Sept.	Wellesbourne to Stratford South Warwickshire Circuit – (Opening Service at 3pm at Stratford)	6 miles

JUST A BIT OF FUN!

Answer to last month's Cryptogram puzzle:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. JN 1 : 1

Now have a go at this month's Puzzle:

Disciples Quiz

1. Who was also known as Cephas?
2. Who were known as "The Sons of Thunder"?
3. Who was Bartholomew also known as?
4. Who was Didymous?
5. Who was Levi?
6. Who was Thaddeus?
7. Who was known as "The Zealot"?
8. Who were the Elder and the Younger (or the less)?
9. Who were the Boanerges?
10. Who was Peter's brother?

LIMERICKS

Last month, to mark Limerick Day on May 16th, you were challenged to write a Limerick beginning

'There was Church Minister called

There was Church Minister called Sam
Who thought he'd have fun with a lamb
But the lamb ran away
And to Sam's great dismay
Fell flat on his face in the mud that day.

Geoff

There was Church Minister called James
Who was good at remembering names
He uses high tech
Every day, hour and sec
And each Sunday God's Word he
proclaims.

Anon

There was a Church Minister called
James Church
Who found he was left in the lurch
He went to the zoo
But found nothing to do
And got lost but continued to search.

Geoff

There was a Church Minister called Sam
From the island of Ireland he swam
He speaks of his roots
And Ireland's disputes
And preaches of peace in a world of
bedlam.

Anon

The prize goes to Geoff, not only for his two limericks, but also for daring to put his name to his entry!

PRAYING TOGETHER IN JUNE

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

1st	Elders of the Church	16th	Uniformed Organisations
2nd	Valerie	17th	Friendship Circle
3rd	Wed. Lunch & Mid-Week Worship	18th	John F
4th	Thy Kingdom Come (global prayer movement)	19th	Joyce
5th	Ann B	20th	Our Ministers and families
6th	Ken	21st	Mavis P
7th	All Are Welcome	22nd	Sally, Andrew & Sally's Mum
8th	Big Breakfast	23rd	Maureen
9th	Kingsley & Anne	24th	Peggy
10th	Clare	25th	Nick
11th	Lillington Free Church	26th	Clarice
12th	Gill	27th	The Film Club
13th	Street Pastors	28th	Ralph
14th	House Group	29th	World Bicycle Relief
15th	Congregational meeting	30th	Night Shelter Volunteers

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.

FILM CLUB

Do come along on Thursday June 27th at 2.00pm when you can see

“The Proposal”

This is a romantic comedy. The plot centres on a Canadian executive who learns that she may face deportation from the U.S. because of her expired visa. Determined to retain her position as editor in chief of a publishing house, she persuades her assistant to act temporarily as her fiancé.

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



THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST is on June 8th at 9.00am.



Come along and bring your friends and smell the sizzling bacon as you come through the door.

The May Big Breakfast raised £39

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
invites you to a production of
‘The Hiding Place’,
the story of Corrie ten Boom,
by Oddments Theatre Company (a full time Christian Theatre
Company)
at All Saints Church on Monday 1st July at 7.30pm.**

The play tells the story of Corrie, born in Haarlem, Holland, and her Christian family. They are outraged at the German occupation in the Second World War, and the constant persecution of the Jewish community. They join thousands of others in the resistance movement Their refusal to stand by and watch the Nazi's horrendous onslaught, and their faith that prevails throughout their subsequent suffering of the Second World War's darkest terrors, continues to inspire all those who learn of Corrie's incredible story. Tickets, available at All Saints Church, cost £10 (£12 on the day).

JUNE DIARY 2019

Sun	2	10.30am	The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Sam McBratney
Tues	4	10.00am	All Are Welcome
Wed	5	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch: The work of CORD
Thurs	6	7.00pm	Pastoral Meeting at the home of Margaret B
Fri	7	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	8	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	9	10.30am	Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	11	10.00am	All Are Welcome
Wed	12	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch: followed by Mid-Week Worship
Fri	14	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	15	10.00am	Congregational Meeting
Sun	16	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by Mr Denys Hill
Tues	18	10.00am	All Are Welcome
		2.00pm	Friendship Circle - The Life & Times of Charlie Chaplin
Wed	19	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Harold Smart (Macular Society) talking about Macular Degeneration and eye care.
Fri	21	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	23	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	25	10.00am	All Are Welcome
		2.00pm	Friendship Circle - "A Dog's Life" A Charlie Chaplin film
Wed	26	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch: followed by Mid-Week Worship
Thurs	27	2.00pm	Film Club "The Proposal"
Fri	28	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	30	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Sam McBratney

Forthcoming Dates

Aug. 11 Cheque for £1000 to be presented to Alec Seaman, a representative of World Bicycle Relief from our 2018/19 Mission Project

Sept. 14 Last Night at the Proms

Oct. 5 Craft Fair

Either Oct. 27 or Nov. 2 (date to be confirmed) The Methodist Circuit is planning a production of "Joseph" at churches throughout the Circuit and it is proposed that the performance at Radford Road will be on one of these dates.

Nov. 21 Angel preparation afternoon

Dec 2-8 Nativity Exhibition

Dec 8 Christingle Service

THE SENSE OF A GOOSE

When you see geese on their annual migrations flying in a "V" formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way.



As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily, because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stay in formation with those people who are heading the same way as we are.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies to the lead point.

It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south.

Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

What message do we give when we honk from behind?

Finally - and this is important - when a goose gets sick or injured and falls out of the formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies; and only then do they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their own group.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.

Author not known
With kind permission from 'The Parish Window'