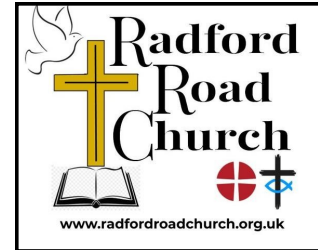


SUNDAY SERVICES

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).



**Radford Road
 Church
 Leamington Spa**

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 Rambles (monthly)

Radford Road Church web site: www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk

Magazine



Candlemas February 2nd

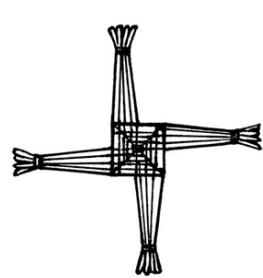
February 2020

THE MINISTER'S LETTER

The 1st February is St. Brigid's Day. She is one of the patron saints of Ireland and is best known for her charity, miracles, and lavish hospitality. One of the symbols of St Brigid is a perpetual fire.

Tradition has it that St. Mel, Bishop of Ardagh, ordained her a bishop. When questioned, Mel responded that she alone of the abbesses of Kildare would be a bishop; but her successors would continue to have a bishop's jurisdictional authority. Indeed they did. Brigid's double monastery at

Kildare was built at a location sacred to the Celtic goddess of the same name. Its perpetual fire, kept burning in Brigid's memory, was extinguished in 1540 with the monastery's dissolution, and it was rekindled in 2006.



In Ireland, many people place the cross of St. Brigid over their doorways in February as a sign of the coming of Spring. It symbolises their prayer of protection for their homes, that they be kept from the evils of disaster and hunger.

Brigid was a wise and influential woman in her day. She inspired many to join her community through her open-hearted and warm hospitality. Many leaders of the church sought her out for her counsel and advice.

Bishops from far and wide came to her, and then to her successors, until the Synod of Kells ended the practice in 1152.

The story of Brigid still inspires us today with her passion for the Gospel shown in acts of kindness and hospitality.

Holy Brigid,
 you were a woman of peace, bringing harmony in place of conflict.
 You brought light in the darkness and hope to the downcast.
 May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled,
 and be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.
 Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid, you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.
 Strengthen us in our weakness and calm us in our anxiety.
 May we grow towards wholeness in mind, body and spirit.
 Amen.

MINISTER (URC)	Revd. James Church jamesichurch@hotmail.com	733265
MINISTER (Methodist)	Revd. Sam McBratney s.mcbratney@methodist.org.uk	07706 586860
ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret B	716625
CHURCH TREASURER	Tina	835656
ORGANIST	Margaret H	313027
MID-WEEK WORSHIP	Jane	02476 696700
WEDNESDAY LUNCH	Veronica	429465
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	Margaret H Ruth	313027 771834
PROPERTY	Bridget Andrew	426419 259233
RAINBOWS	Bridget	426419
BROWNIES	Bridget	426419
GUIDES	Emma	07980 767049
RANGERS	Sarah	07889 214050
BEAVER SCOUTS	Matthew	07804 364327
CUB SCOUTS	Matthew	07804 364327
SCOUTS	Malcolm	07799 432318
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Mark	07980 817696
ACTING GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Mark	07980 817696
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk	427451

ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee
Feb 2	Veronica	Brenda & Alan
Feb 9	Joan	Jean & Margaret
Feb 16	Julia	Jherell & Veronica
Feb 23	Sue	John & Ruth
Mar 1	Jherell	Bridget & Sally
Mar 8	Rosemary	Brenda & Alan

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...

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. – Francis of Assisi

Thank you for reading this copy of Radford Road Church Magazine. To cut down on paper and production costs many people now receive the Magazine by email but, if you do still have a hard copy, please pass it on to a friend or re-cycle it when you have finished with it.

Please email Marjorie at carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk before Sunday Feb 16th if you have any items suitable for publication in the March Magazine.

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 think especially of Ann, Hazel and John F.

Please pray for all those you know who have special health problems, worries or concerns. As autumn and winter approach, may they keep warm and safe and may they know others are thinking of, and praying for, them.

The Christingle Service held on December 8th 2019 also included a Baptismal Service for Rose Simone Marçais, granddaughter of Jean Young. We were pleased to welcome Rose's parents, Alex and Guillame and their other children, Louis and Clémence, both of whom were baptised at Radford Road Church in 2017. We also welcomed other family members and friends.

It is with sadness that we heard of the deaths of Mavis Peace, of Gladys Rapley (Rappy) and the very recent unexpected death of Carol Goldstraw, a member of our All Are Welcome group.

Thanksgiving Services for the live of Mavis and of Rappy have taken place and the arrangements for Carol's funeral will be available in due course. We remember the families and friends who mourn the loss of loved ones.

NEW METHODIST CIRCUIT SUPERINTENDENT

In September 2020, the South Warwickshire Circuit welcomes a new superintendent minister. His name is Revd. Dr. Iain Ballard who is at present serving as a minister in Hull. Prior to 2015, he was a Consultant in Emergency Medicine. He is married and has 2 children aged 4 and 6. He and his family will live in the manse in Kenilworth and he will have pastoral care of Kenilworth and Stockton.

Peter Powers is moving to be superintendent in Oxford. His wife and children are remaining in Kenilworth

OUR COVER PICTURE



Candlemas Feb. 2nd

Candlemas commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son, Jesus. This day also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World.

The festival is called Candlemas because, in past years, all the Church's candles for the year were lit and blessed on this day.

On Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home.

Like some other Christian festivals, Candlemas draws some of its elements from Paganism. In pre-Christian times, it was the festival of light. This ancient festival marked the mid point of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox.

Some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights. People believed that Candlemas predicted the weather for the rest of the winter.

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again.

HOPE PRAYER INITIATIVE

HOPE Together is inviting Christians of all denominations to pray for 20 minutes on the 20th of every month, throughout 2020, each evening at 20:20. The initiative is for an intentional, strategic and spirit-filled year of mission across the UK called Advance 2020.

This is something everyone is able to do whether you are at work, with friends or spending a quiet evening at home. Be part of this wonderful initiative and join with other Christians in this act of prayer together.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON (CTL)



CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS

Saturday 15th February 2020 9.45am for 10am
AROUND NORTON LINDSEY- (about 4 miles).
Meet and eat at The New Inn, Norton Lindsey.
Leader: Richard P. Mobile: 07941 808875
More details are on the vestibule notice board.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Advance notice: The World Day of Prayer Annual Service will be at 2pm on Friday March 6th at Lillington Free Church. This year the service has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe on the theme "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk". Both women and men are most cordially invited.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY MORNING

January 2nd 2020

On the morning of January 2nd we welcomed 20 children for an activity morning. The theme was The Three Kings (Wise Men). Most of the children had attended previous activity mornings.

After registering and colouring pictures of the three gifts and doing a word search, James told the story of the visit of the Magi with the children acting out the various parts. When asked what the three gifts were they quickly said gold, frankincense and myrrh and then added mince pies and wine!! The children then broke into groups for the craft activities which included bread making, puppet scenes and craft pictures focussing on the three kings, making crowns and painting. The morning ended with a treasure hunt and singing songs. Many thanks to Bridget, Jean, Veronica, James, Chris, Kath and Fiona from Thrive

Since the activity morning Bridget, Jean and I have had a meeting with Fiona from Thrive to discuss how we can develop youth work at Radford Road Church.

Margaret Bull

NATIVITY EXHIBITION 2019

All our visitors enjoyed seeing our Nativity Exhibition during the first week of Advent. Eight tiny tots from a Child minders' group opposite the church popped in and promised to make decorations for our Community Christmas Tree when they had seen the exhibition. We had classes of children from St. Patrick's School and from Clapham Terrace School and a small group of children from Brick Barn School in Bishop's Tachbrook. Before one group of children looked around they were told the Christmas story and were asked what the kings brought for the baby Jesus. One six year old said, "Gold, frankincense and .mmmmm.....mince pies!"

A photographer from the Observer took photos which were put on the newspaper's web site and in the weekly paper.

Many thanks to all who helped to make the Exhibition such a success. Donation given at the Exhibition raised £296.00 and this will be divided between our Mission Fund and Radford Road Church.

CAN YOU HELP?

This year James is the Chair of Churches Together in Leamington and so his thoughts are turning to the Raising of the Cross service in Christ Church Gardens on Good Friday. He feels that many of the passers-by who see a large group of people gathering together outside Holy Trinity Church and walking in silent witness to the gardens at the top of the Parade, do not understand what it is all about. James has suggested that each church taking part should carry a banner with the name of the church written on it and an appropriate picture depicting Good Friday.

Ideas have been suggested and one design selected but now we need to start work on producing our banner. Those interested in helping, whether new to banner making or whether an expert, are invited to come to a meeting on Thursday February 6th at 2.00pm so that a start can be made. The task can probably be completed in 3 or 4 weekly sessions so there is no long term commitment.

No great skill is involved - just come along with a sharp pair of scissors and a

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

24th Feb - 8th March

Calling all chocolate fans and fighters for fairness!

In 2020 Fairtrade will continue its mission to ensure that all farmers are paid fairly for their work and are able to earn a living income, starting with cocoa farmers in West Africa. Make sure you purchase Fairtrade goods.

OUR HOST OF ADVENT ANGELS

All 600 of our knitted Advent angels were distributed around the streets of Leamington during the last week of November. In each of the bags with the angels was an invitation to visit our Nativity Exhibition during the first week of Advent and also included were details of our Christmas services.

The response from people finding the angels has been absolutely brilliant. There have been messages on Facebook saying how thrilled people were to find an angel and congratulating the church on such an innovative idea.

Despite one of our distributors repeatedly insisting that this was a small gift to the community from the church and the angels were free, one recipient insisted on giving a donation to help with the purchase of wool for next year's angel project. Another person contacted us through the church website and was so delighted with the angel she had found that she asked for the price of the angels as she would have liked to purchase more!

An email message received said, "I love my knitted angel. Made me cry. Came just at the right time. Thank you for your kindness"

One of our Brownies found an angel hanging on railings in her street and she couldn't stop talking about it at the following Brownie meeting!

Rob sent one to a friend in Japan. Unfortunately the envelope was ripped open in transit and only an empty envelope was delivered. However, Japan Post delivered the angel safely two days later!

A couple visited the Nativity Exhibition clutching an angel they had found on the railings near Manor Court. They were delighted with it and were going to take it to America to show to their daughter who lives there.

Many thanks to all our knitters (and especially to Bella whose house became a knitting factory and who produced 300 angels as well as knitted hats, gloves and scarves for the Night Shelter and for the Shoeboxes). Thank you too to the 15 people who spent an afternoon preparing the angels for flight and for those people who distributed angels around the town and left them in strategic places for people to find.

The Angel Project will happen again in Advent 2020 so Please start knitting!



THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST

will be on Feb. 8th at 9.00am.

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

The December Big Breakfast raised £46.00

The January 2020 Big Breakfast raised £56.00



Jane saw the following article in a magazine and wanted to share it with others

DEFINING MOMENT

When asked to identify the defining moment in his life, Desmond Tutu said it came at the tender age of nine, as he and his mother were walking down the street. A tall white man dressed in a sharp black suit began to approach them. During the days of the South African apartheid, the societal norm was when a black person and a white person met on a footpath for the former to step into the gutter to allow the latter to pass, with an additional nod of the head as a gesture of respect.

However, on this particular day, before the young Tutu and his mother could step out of the way, the white man stepped off the pavement instead. As they passed, he tipped his hat in a gesture of respect. This man who decided to evade societal norms was Trevor Huddleston, an Anglican priest, who was bitterly opposed to apartheid.

This encounter transformed Tutu's life. When his mother told him that Trevor Huddleston had stepped off the pavement because 'He was a man of God', Tutu was inspired. Tutu said "When she told me that he was an Anglican priest I decided there and then that I wanted to be an Anglican priest too. And what was more, I wanted to be a man of God".

Huddleston later became a mentor to Desmond Tutu. His commitment to the equality of all human beings in light of their creation in the image of God was a key influence.

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). My prayer is that we can all seek to carry God's inclusive heart for all people and be willing to step off the pavement and tip our hat, to show love and kindness to all.

Snowdrop

Snuggled in amongst the leaves
Nestled in the grass
Out of cold, damp soil emerge
Winter's little stars.
Dullest days are lit by this
Reminder of the Spring
Overcoming Winter blues
Precious little thing.

Julie Smith (member of All Are Welcome)

MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS

As you may be aware the Methodist Conference 2019 discussed Marriage and Relationship and produced a report entitled 'God in love unites us'.

Each circuit is asked to discuss what is proposed around marriage and relationship and to air thoughts and questions it may have.

Copies of the "God in Love Unites Us: Study Guide are available in the vestibule.

THERE IS NO DECISION MAKING, it is simply an opportunity to gather together thoughts which can be taken back to Synod and then Conference will be voting on proposals in 2020.

At Radford Road we will be spending time discussing this at the Congregational Meeting on 15th February 2020.

MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY REPORT



Work completed

All boilers serviced which included fitting a new vent in the vestibule kitchen.

New cooker in the vestibule kitchen.

New hot water supply to the small sink in the Church centre kitchen.

New tap fitted to the water boiler in the hall kitchen.

Damaged radiator in the hall repaired.

Work to do

Boards needed behind the chairs in the lounge to prevent damage to the plaster.

The flat roofs above the Quiet Room and the one leading to the hall from the Church are leaking – quotes being obtained to carry out the work.

Bridget Halpin

PRAYING TOGETHER IN FEBRUARY

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

1st	Rehoboth Children's Centre	16th	The Uniformed Organisations
2nd	Valerie	17th	The Friendship Circle
3rd	Sally & Andrew	18th	John F
4th	Wed. Lunch & Mid-Week Worship	19th	Gill
5th	Christians Together in Leamington	20th	The Film Club
6th	House Group	21st	Ann B
7th	Joyce	22nd	The Elders of the Church
8th	Big Breakfast	23rd	The Street Pastors
9th	Night Shelter Vounteers	24th	Nick
10th	Ken	25th	Mavis M
11th	Clare	26th	Clarice
12th	Kingsley & Anne	27th	Margaret H's Mum
13th	All Are Welcome	28th	Ralph
14th	The family of Mavis P	29th	Peggy
15th	Our Ministers & families		

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 Feb.27th at 2.00pm when you can see
“Happy Go Lovely”

A backstage musical comedy set in Scotland and concerns mistaken identity involving one of the dancers hitching a ride in a millionaire's limousine. A musical comedy which everyone will enjoy.

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

JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLLOUR DREAMCOAT

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat” by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice is one of the world's most successful musicals. Now you can enjoy it like never before as you sing along to every wonderful word. In early Spring, South Warwickshire Circuit will be presenting a travelling “Sing-along -a-Joseph” which will take place in every church in the circuit between 1st February and 29th March. It will be coming to Radford Road Church on Saturday March 21st at 2pm. Please put the date in your diary and come along and enjoy a great sing along. For other dates around the circuit see the poster in the vestibule.

NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER

We are appealing for lots of second hand fiction books which you have enjoyed reading and which you no longer need, but they must be in really good condition. The books will be wrapped in brown paper, (to hide the title and the book's blurb), tied with string and a cryptic clue to the book's contents will be written on the outside cover. People will be invited to choose and buy a book for a very modest amount, but it will be a case of having a “blind date with a book” as they will not know just which book they are purchasing!

So, when you are next having a sort out, please remember that fiction books are needed by Radford Road Church, and pass them on, so that this brilliant idea can be brought to fruition.

Any spare brown wrapping paper you have, either new or used, would be very useful too. It is a way of recycling it and putting it to good use. Please bring it along.

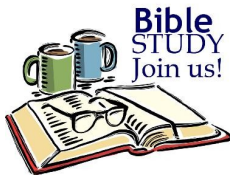
Marjorie

FEBRUARY DIARY 2020

Sun	2	10.30am	Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. Richard Wilde
Tues	4	10.00am	All Are Welcome
Wed	5	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship led by the Revd. Sam McBratney
Fri	7	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	8	9.00am	Big Breakfast
Sun	9	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church
Tues	11	10.00am	All Are Welcome
Wed	12	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12:30pm	Wednesday Lunch: Visit of Richard and Ave of Siloam Ministries, (our Mission Project.) All are welcome to all our lunches.
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 the Revd. Jemima Strain
Tues	18	10.00am	All Are Welcome
Wed	19	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church
Fri	21	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sun	23	10.30am	The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Sam McBratney
Tues	25	10.00am	All Are Welcome
Wed	26	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch: Visit of Rani Clare.
Thurs	27	2.00pm	Film Club "Happy Go Lovely"
Fri	28	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The Friendship Circle has decided not to meet during the winter months. The number of attendees is now very small and members are finding it extremely difficult to get to weekly meetings during the cold, wet weather. Meetings will resume after Easter on Tuesday April 21st at 2pm and they would welcome new people to come along.



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.

The result of the UN Madrid Summit was disappointing and splits emerged over how to create a global carbon trading market.

Veronica was so moved by this reflection on Psalm 126 which appeared in the URC Daily Devotions (8th Dec. 2019) and which emphasised the need for us all to be take action on the impact of the present global environmental emergency, that she wanted to share it with others.

1 When Zion's fortunes God restored, it was a dream come true.

2 Our mouths were then with laughter filled, our tongues with songs anew.

The nations said, "The LORD has done great things for Israel."

3 The LORD did mighty things for us, and joy our hearts knew well.

4 Restore our fortunes, gracious LORD, like streams in desert soil.

5 A joyful harvest will reward the weeping sower's toil.

6 The man who, bearing seed to sow, goes out with tears of grief, Will come again with songs of joy, bearing his harvest sheaf.

The writer reflects:

If we pray 'restore our fortunes, gracious LORD, like streams in the desert soil' it has to be for ALL our fortunes, especially the poor, vulnerable and needy (rather than 'wanty'). Restoration for the whole planet, as well as human community.

How we live NOW is sowing the seeds of the future (just as we are reaping the harvest of how we and others have lived over-consuming lives up to this point). It is not my generation that will reap the full harvest, but those born after me and those yet to be born. We have so little time to literally repent: to turn around, to radically re-orientate. So we must sow in tears of repentance: make changes to how we eat, shop, travel, use energy and all the other materials we rely on. We must replace 'personal convenience' with 'whole planet impact' as our method of valuing and evaluating all our choices - and accept the relative 'pain' this might cause us. Above all we have to actively choose how we sow rather than passively continue with business as usual.

I am humbled by those willing to protest, to be sufficiently obstructive to risk arrest and imprisonment, or worse in other parts of the world where confronting authorities with uncomfortable truths is 'treason'. I weep with them, but lack the courage to do more than stand with them in prayer, and I am ashamed.

If I claim to love God and my neighbour, I owe it to the young adults, young people, children, infants, and generations yet to be born to be willing to lay down my life, or at the very least my comfort and convenience, in love for them.

After all, God so loved the world....

Prayer

Restore our fortunes, gracious LORD
Like streams in desert soil.

Move our hearts to grief and repentance;
Give us kingdom seed to sow.

May we hear the laughter, songs and joy
Of the generations after us.

May we bless the world you have blessed us with. Amen