



MINISTER'S LETTER FROM REV ROB ANNING

Blessed are the Peacemakers

I've just finished watching the 1pm News on the BBC. The first item was about the Memorial Service held at St Paul's Cathedral, for the 52 people killed and the 800 or so injured in the 7/7 bombings in London, 20 years ago.



The second item was about the flash floods in Texas, USA, where 81 people have died and many are still missing, including at least 10 children.

The third item was about an attempt to change employment law so that both parents whose child miscarries within 24 weeks of conception are entitled to unpaid bereavement leave.

All of this was before we got to an item about an attempt to bring peace to Gaza by having discussions about the conditions of a possible ceasefire between the US and Israel and Hamas.

In recent months, I am hearing more people say that they no longer watch the TV news. They simply can't face it and I am left wondering if this is a self-defence mechanism to avoid depression or is it a "cop out", an unwillingness to engage with the challenges that face us?

What is certain is that in the last 50 years or so, the accessibility to news items from around the world has increased through social media and other forms of digital information streams. Whereas many of the items of news in the past warranted three column-inches in the national newspapers about events that happened days or weeks before, now arrive into our lives as they are happening, and in vivid technicolour.

Nevertheless, Christians are still called to respond, not to ignore events, even if our attempts at response seem feeble and futile. Yes, we can all take the issues that bother us into a time of prayer, not to simply hand the problem over to God, but perhaps to request guidance and wisdom from God about how we should respond.

We can all write to our MPs, go on protest marches, hold discussions where various points of view are expressed, send letters to newspapers, and seek further information about the background to some of the issues so that our understanding is better.

But while our responses may seem of little value about events on the other side of the world, we are all still called to be "peacemakers" wherever we live. In Matthew 5, Jesus says: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be the children of God". In a recent article I read by Rev'd Inderjit Bhogal, a Methodist minister, he writes: "What this (children of God) means is that you most closely reflect the nature and character of God, the great Peacemaker, when you are a peacemaker".

Inderjit goes on: "In God's wisdom human beings are made in 'the Image and likeness of God', but not the same. Human beings are made in the Image of God but are marked by their immense differences. This is what makes us beautiful, but herein also lies the route to our brokenness. Brokenness and conflict arise when instead of valuing differences as gift and strength, they are seen as things to be feared and generate hostility. We can see this in all conflict in the world. Conflict arises when differences of appearance or opinions are seen as a problem rather than an enrichment".

So let's not despair at the news from around the world. Let's not bury our heads in the sand, but commit ourselves to learning more about each other. In that way we will fulfil the laws that Jesus gave us: "Love your neighbour" and "love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you".

Peace-making is about valuing differences and diversity of opinions, facilitating deep and respectful listening to all views without rubbishing or dehumanising or humiliating anyone.

Rev Rob Anning

DIARY AUGUST 2025

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BIBLE STUDY AND ALL ARE WELCOME GROUPS WILL NOT BE MEETING IN AUGUST)

Sun 3rd Aug 10.30 am Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Rob Anning

Sat 9th Aug 9-11am Big Breakfast

Sun 10th Aug 10.30am Service led by Rev Nick Stanyon

Sun 17th Aug 10.30am Service led by the Elders

Sun 24th Aug 10.30am Service led by Ms Sheila Brown

Sun 31st Aug 10.30am Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Tina Brooker and Rev Nick Stanyon



DIARY SEPTEMBER 2025

Tues 2nd Sept 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 4th Sept 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 5th Sept 6.30pm Joint Bible Study Lillington Free Church

Sun 7th Sept 10.30am Service led by Mrs Vanessa Caley

Tues 9th Sept 10am Bible Study

Thurs 11th Sept 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 12th Sept 6.30pm Joint Bible Study Lillington Free Church

Sat 13th Sept 9-11am Big Breakfast

Sun 14th Sept 10.30am Service led by Dr Denys Hill

Tues 16th Sept 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 18th Sept 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 19th Sept 6.30pm Joint Bible Study Lillington Free Church

Sun 21st Sept 10.30am Service led by Rev Audrey Simpson

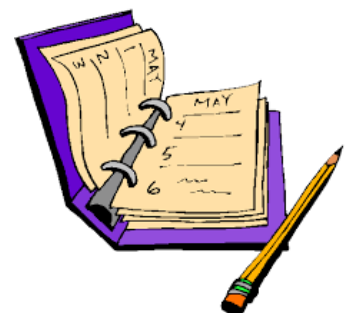
Tues 23rd Sept 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 25th Sept 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 26th Sept 6.30pm Joint Bible Study Lillington Free Church

Sun 28th Sept 10.30am Harvest Festival and Communion Service led by Rev Tina Brooker

Tues 30th Sept 10.30am Bible Study



Faith & Fellowship

COFFEE ROTA

(PLEASE ARRANGE SWAP IF NECESSARY)

Would the first person on the rota please bring milk, and the second bring biscuits.

Sun 3rd Aug Jherell and Sally

Sun 7th Sept John and Ruth

Sun 10th Aug John and Ruth

Sun 14th Sept Jean and Sally

Sun 17th Aug Brenda and Alan

Sun 21st Sept Brenda and Alan

Sun 24th Aug Julia and Jean

Sun 28th Sept Julia and Jeni

Sun 31st Aug Margaret and Bridget

ALL ARE WELCOME



Every Thursday morning we meet in the church vestibule to act as a "Warm Hub" for anyone who cares to come and join us. We are open to all, as the name suggests. So pop along one Thursday, and perhaps bring a friend or neighbour to enjoy a toasted teacake, with tea or coffee and maybe try the quiz, play a game, or simply sit and chat.



Pat has completed her latest jigsaw!

BIG BREAKFAST



Big Breakfast takes place on the second Saturday of every month, offering fantastic value for a delicious breakfast of your choice; profits go to our Mission Project (see below and on page 5). Pop the dates in your diary, and come along to enjoy tasty food and good company.



Sat 9th August

Sat 13th September

9-11am



Our Mission Project until the end of August is

"EMBRACE the Middle East"

"We work with Christians in the Middle East to tackle poverty and injustice in the region. Where there is a need – for refuge, a home, for health care, for education, for justice and human rights – we, with our partners, respond."



FAMILY NEWS

With sadness, we report the death in June of **Clarice T** (See below) Her funeral took place on 25th July 2025



Please remember in your prayers those who have been bereaved

Comfort the families and friends who grieve

Those who are ill, and especially those known to us

We ask that they may 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 in your prayers **Ann, Anne, Frank and Jane, Geoff, Gill & Eric, Hazel, Vi; all those involved with the Night Shelter**

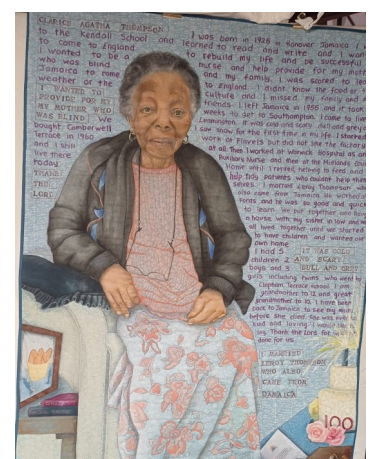


CLARICE THOMPSON 1925-2025

Clarice was born in sunny Jamaica, and came to chilly England in 1955, when she saw snow for the first time in her life! She started working at Flavels, and then moved on to work as an Auxiliary Nurse, first at Warwick hospital, and then at the Midland Counties Home. She married a fellow Jamaican, Leroy Thompson, and in 1960 they bought a house in Camberwell Terrace, where they raised five children together. Clarice was grandmother to twelve grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. She was a part of the life of Radford Road (formerly Trinity Church) for many years, and was a woman of deep faith.

Clarice's life spanned a full century: she lived her whole life to the full, and for the last few years as her health was failing, she was lovingly cared for by her family, enabling her to stay in her own home, where she died peacefully at the age of 100.

Her funeral service was taken by Rev Rob Anning, with prayers, readings and tributes from family and friends. The mourners filled the church to overflowing! On display in the vestibule was this wonderful quilted fabric wall hanging with a picture of Clarice and her life story in her own words



REMEMBER: The Daily service BBC Radio 4extra Monday to Friday at 9.45 am and available on the BBC Sounds app. Sunday Worship at 8.10am Radio 4 on Sundays.



AND

"Songs of Praise" BBC TV every Sunday (Times vary)



GOODBYE.....

In August we have to say goodbye to not one but two good friends. **Rev Rob Anning** has been 'looking after us' as our Methodist minister for the past year since Rev Jemima Strain moved on. He agreed to step out of retirement temporarily, and we have very much appreciated his ministry with us; it feels as if he's been with us for much longer than just a few months! As well as taking services regularly, he has led the Tuesday Bible Study, and made a lot of pastoral visits to those church members who are housebound. Rob's last service at Radford Road will be on Sunday 3rd August, so if you are able, do come along to say thank you and bid him farewell.



Sadly for us we are also going to lose **Jherell Galang**, who is moving to the USA to be close to her family. Jherell joined our church in May 2016, having only arrived from the Philippines four days previously. Despite being considerably younger than the majority of our number, she has been a faithful member of the congregation, and for the last 6 years she has served as an Elder. We shall really miss her cheerful smile, her fellowship, her technical ability (and the occasions when she and her friends took over the Big Breakfast from Margaret and Jean!) Jherell will be starting her new life in California at the end of September, and will take with her our thanks and our good wishes

We will miss both Rob and Jherell, but happily we will also be saying

.....HELLO

We are looking forward to welcoming Rev Tina Brooker as our new Methodist Minister. She is going to be very busy, as she will also be looking after the Methodist churches at Dale Street, Cublington and Kinton. Tina's first service with us will be a joint service with Rev Nick Stanyon, so we'll have both our ministers at once - a double whammy! Please come and say hello to Tina and make her feel welcome in our church family



MISSION PROJECT 2025/6



Each year we choose a new Mission Project for which to raise funds, with a target of £1000. From September 2025, our new Mission Project will be **MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP**



Mission Aviation Fellowship is an international Christian organisation whose purpose is to bring help, hope and healing through aviation to people living in isolation and poverty.

Every 5.6 minutes a MAF aircraft takes off or lands somewhere in the world, transporting people who live in remote villages and assisting missions, churches, aid and development agencies and others working to transform the lives of communities that are cut off from the outside world.

SUE D'S ILLUSTRIOUS ANCESTOR : ST JOHN SOUTHWORTH

During one of our lively quiz debates at All Are welcome, Sue D told us about one of her distant relations, St John Southworth. This is a brief account of his interesting life, taken from the booklet written about him by Rev J L Whitfield

John Southworth was born in Lancashire in 1592 at Samlesbury Hall. At that period, there was an increasing amount of anti-Catholicism, but his family chose to pay heavy fines rather than give up their Catholic faith

John studied at the English College in Douai, in northern France. A law was passed in 1585 branding as treasonable any priest who dared to come back to England. The law was later extended to all who assisted such priests.

John was ordained priest before he returned to England 13 October 1619, where he remained until 1624. He was then recalled to serve as chaplain to Benedictine nuns in Brussels.

He returned to Lancashire, after about a year but was arrested in 1627 and imprisoned in Lancaster Castle along with Edmund Arrowsmith. Arrowsmith was hanged, drawn, and quartered at Lancaster on 28 August 1628. John was moved to The Clink in London where he was sentenced to death for professing the Catholic faith. In 1630, at the insistence of Queen Henrietta Maria, he and seventeen others were delivered to the French ambassador and deported to France.

By 1636 he had returned to England and lived in Clerkenwell, London, at this time there was a plague epidemic. He and Henry Morse ministered to the sick in Westminster, and also raised money for the families of victims. In 1637 Southworth was arrested again and sent to the Gatehouse Prison he was then transferred to The Clink again, where he remained for three years. On three occasions when he was arrested, he was released by the Secretary of State Sir Francis Windebank at the direction of the Queen. The fourth time he managed to escape. From 1640 and 1654 he continued his clandestine ministry.

He was again arrested under the interregnum and was tried at the Old Bailey under Elizabethan anti-priest legislation. He pleaded guilty to exercising the priesthood and was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. He was executed at Tyburn, London.

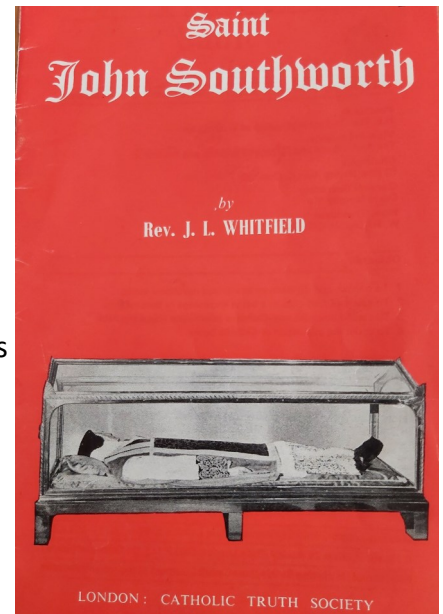
The Spanish ambassador returned his corpse to Douai for burial. His corpse was sewn together and parboiled, to preserve it. Following the French Revolution, his body was buried in an unmarked grave for its protection. The grave was discovered in 1927 and his remains were returned to England. They are now kept in the Chapel of St George and the English Martyrs in Westminster Cathedral, London.

In 1929 he was beatified. In 1970, he was canonized by Pope Paul VI as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales. His feast day is 27 June which is celebrated in the Westminster diocese. He is a patron saint of priests.

In 2014, The Guild of Saint John Southworth was established in Westminster Cathedral. Its members are volunteers who will meet visitors, answer their questions and guide them around the cathedral if they wish.

0-0-0-0-0

Who would have guessed we have such a well-connected member among our congregation!



A delightful poem from Julie



FRIENDS

Sometimes life is a struggle
Seems like worry never ends
But when it gets a bit too much
Remember you have friends

You may not heed well-meant advice
Not what you need to hear
But friends just want the best for you
And you know they care

Talk about your troubles
Let them help you through
“A trouble shared is a trouble halved”
Yes! This saying’s true



ECO CHURCH

Green Summer Tips

Get outside and enjoy the warm weather (as long as it's not too hot!), but be mindful of the environment

- ♦ Reduce plastic use. If you're having a barbecue or a get-together with friends, opt for paper or cardboard plates and cups rather than plastic
- ♦ Get a re-usable metal bottle instead of buying disposable plastic bottles of water.
- ♦ Buy local food produce which hasn't been flown across the world.
- ♦ Forget the tumble dryer - dry your washing out of doors.
- ♦ Go for a walk or a bike ride, rather than taking the car.
- ♦ Plant some flowers for the bees and other pollinators- we need them!



SOCIAL/FUNRAISING EVENT

Last October we held a Gift Day instead of the traditional Craft Fair of previous years. We plan to hold some sort of event (as yet undecided) in the New Year. All suggestions welcome!

BAPTISM SUN 22ND JUNE 2025

Following our regular Sunday service on 22nd June, a service of Holy Baptism was held, and several members of the congregation joined the family and friends to welcome 2-month old baby Scarlett Ayla C. into the family of the church.

Little Scarlett is pictured here during and after the short service (during which she behaved beautifully) with her parents Keisha and Leon, and Revd Rob Anning.

Congratulations and welcome to the whole family!



PROPERTY REPORT

Manse Update:

The URC manse on Leam Terrace is now up for sale with Connells. The tenants have moved out of the property, and have left it in a good condition.

If the place does not sell quickly, we will look at getting more tenants on a short-term lease.



Church Roof:

Frustratingly, we have been told that there is an issue with the left-hand buttress on the church (as you look at it from the street) We have had one engineer out to look at the problem, and we are awaiting the visit of a second engineer, so at this stage we do not know the extent of the problem or the potential cost. Meanwhile, the scaffolding remains in place at the back of the church!

Church:

As far as I am aware, most niggles have been sorted, We are left with a leaking sink in the flower room, and the lounge in the church centre needs some replastering and then repainting. If you know of any other issues please let me know. **Bridget**

SAFEGUARDING



Radford Road Church believes each person has a value and dignity as part of God's creation. We are committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirm that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount. If you have any concerns, either for yourself or for another person, please speak in confidence to one of our **Safeguarding Officers: Sue Darlison and Jean Young**, or to one of the ministers. Phone numbers on the final page

I WENT TO THE CROSS



I said to the Lord, "I don't understand"
I needed your help - Your loving hand
My heart was broken, my soul in despair....
I went to the cross, but You weren't there.

I was so weary, my hope all but gone,
Beginning to wonder why life should go on.
I took all the burdens you said you would
bear....

I went to the cross, but You weren't there.

Then in the stillness, I heard the Lord say,
"I'm right by your side, and I'll never stray.
I'm always faithful, there's no need to fear,
I'm all you need, and I'm always here....

I went to the cross, but I didn't stay -
I died for your sins, but on the third day
I arose from the grave, as I said I would do.
I'm not on the cross - **I'm forever with you**"



I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS: Matthew 28:20



LEAMINGTON SKY GARDEN

Have you heard about the Leamington Sky Garden project? A group of local Leamington residents are wanting to transform the disused railway viaduct above Leamington's Old Town into a thriving outdoor green space for all the community to use. Leamington Sky Garden will be an oasis of quiet nature and calm that provides refuge from the frenzy of modern life.



The plan is to work on the 5 viaducts between Neilston Street and Leamington station, coordinating with the High Line team, also with Network Rail and Archco for the formal and legal aspects.

It is being led by the community with a team of volunteers and they are looking for people to come forward to help.



. For further information please follow the link below.

<https://leamingtonskygarden.uk/>

Many thanks to Jennie M for drawing our attention to this interesting project

Save the Date!

Community for Reconciliation Footprints, in partnership with Mediation and Community Support. invite you to the book launch of:

“IN SPITE OF OUR DIFFERENCES. Healing the hurts of war”

by Rev. Clive Fowle

Starting with Clive's first journey to Osijek in Croatia, read how local people have resisted the violence which led to the break-up of the former Yugoslavia....people like Dushanka, who pioneered the 'BENCH WE SHARE' project. Read about the impact the workshops have had on Serbs, Croats and other nationalities.

Books will be available to buy*, and Rev Clive will be there to sign your copy. We also thrilled that our local worker Snjezana from Osijek will be with us.

When: Saturday 4th Oct at 2:30pm

Where: Rugby Methodist Church Centre

Russelsheim Way, Rugby, CV22 7TB.

To help with catering, let us know if you are coming @ dornmargetts@aol.com but otherwise just turn up!

* payment via cash, card, cheque or bank transfer

Sally writes:

BOSHAM

Whilst on holiday in July, we were advised to visit the pretty village of Bosham., which we did on our way back from Chichester.

We are so glad we did. It really is very picturesque, with neat houses and beautiful gardens. It is a coastal village which readily floods. We were met with a road sign warning that the road floods and many of the houses had flood defences at their front gates and doors.

Bosham is reputed to be the oldest established Christian site in Sussex. We went into the village, Holy Trinity Church, which dates from the 10th century. To the right of the Saxon chancel we found a memorial stone, with the black raven of the Royal House of Denmark on it. The inscription reads:



**TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN MEMORY OF
A DAUGHTER OF KING CANUTE
WHO DIED EARLY IN THE 11TH CENTURY
AGED ABOUT 8 YEARS
WHOSE REMAINS LIE ENCLOSED IN A
STONE COFFIN BENEATH THIS SPOT
PLACED BY THE CHILDREN OF
THE PARISH AUGUST 1906**

Tradition says that a young daughter of Cnut's (or Canute,) fell into the nearby millstream and drowned in the year 1020. The millstream is still there; and has been, apparently, since it was dug by the Romans



King Harold's association with Bosham is such that some believe he might have been buried in the church. The child's skeleton thought to be that of Cnut's daughter was originally discovered under the nave in 1865, but re-examined in 1954. At that time, another stone coffin was found nearby, which contained the remains of a man, about 5'6" tall, aged about 60, minus a head, leg, and part of the other leg. It has been speculated that these are the remains of Harold, last king of the Saxon English. It is not known what actually happened to Harold's mutilated body after the Battle of Hastings – William didn't want the English to create a shrine to their dead king and it is generally thought that Harold was discreetly buried at Waltham Abbey. But no one knows for sure. Indeed, it is not certain that the child's skeleton is that of Cnut's daughter either. It is known that under the nave is a privileged place to be buried and the right place to find a king's daughter – as well as, perhaps, a king.

Bosham Church is depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry, the embroidery commissioned by the Normans to tell their tale of the [Battle of Hastings](#).

CHURCH CONTACTS

churchradfordroad@gmail.com

MINISTER (URC)	Rev Nick Stanyon 07917005305/revnickstanyon@outlook.com
MINISTER (METHODIST)	Rev Rob Anning 07986 738482/robert.anning@btinternet.com Rev Tina Brooker 07479556913tina.brooker@methodist.org.uk (from Sept 2025)
ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret Bull 07760 395810
CHURCH TREASURER	Andrew D
ORGANIST	Margaret H
PROPERTY	Bridget Halpin 07425154324 Andrew C
NEWSLETTER EDITORS	Sally Cligg 07870 815637/crumbleless@hotmail.com Jean Young 07879 285466/jpg_young@yahoo.co.uk
WEBSITE	
SAFEGUARDING	Jean Young 07879 285466/ Sue Darlison 07783 992703
RAINBOWS/BROWNIES	Sabina/Phoebe
GUIDES	Emma
RANGERS	Sarah
BEAVERS/CUBS	Matthew
SCOUTS	Mark

(If you need to get in touch with anyone on the list without a phone number, please use the church email to request details)



Please feel free to comment on this or any other edition - we welcome your opinions. Just contact Jean or Sally

Thank you for reading this electronic copy of Radford Road Church Newsletter.

A limited number of newsletters are being printed and most people are receiving electronic copies. This is a much greener, cheaper and less time-consuming way of producing the magazine.

At present 67 copies of this Magazine are being sent out.

Please email Jean or Sally by Sun 21st September 2025 if you have any items suitable for publication in the next issue of the newsletter