



MINISTER'S LETTER FROM REV TINA BROOKER

New Beginnings and God's Faithfulness

Dear friends,

Happy new Connexional year. I really enjoyed my first time worshipping with you recently. Even though Radford Road is two different denominations, it felt like one happy church family. It was a privilege to be there. Thank you for your very warm welcome and to Revd Nick who I'm looking forward to working with over the coming years.



I was recently reflecting how each year brings with it moments that invite us to make a fresh start. For many, the beginning of a new academic year is one of those seasons. There's something about fresh calendars, blank pages, and new opportunities that stirs both excitement and apprehension. Students prepare to step into unfamiliar classrooms, teachers ready themselves for fresh challenges, and families adjust to shifting routines. Even for those not tied to school runs, the rhythm of the year often feels like a fresh chapter, as the trees begin to turn and we sense the seasons shift.

In these moments of transition, the promises of the Bible speak with clarity and comfort. God tells His people in the book of Isaiah 43:19, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" New beginnings are not just human markers of time, they can be opportunities for us to see the hand of God at work.

Often new beginnings can also bring uncertainties. Will this year be productive? Will the challenges be more than we can handle? Will our efforts bear the results we hope for? Will our students get the grades? These questions are natural, but they are also invitations to lean into the character of God. The good news is that while circumstances shift, God Himself does not. It says in the Bible that, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." He remains steady when everything else feels new or unknown.

That truth can make all the difference. The dependability of God anchors us when the future feels unsteady. His promises, unlike our best intentions, never fail.

Perhaps the greatest encouragement of all is found in God's daily renewal of mercy, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." (Bible). Each sunrise is proof that God is still present, still faithful, and still offering us the grace to begin again.

If you are looking for a new opportunity to find faith in God or to renew or rediscover your beliefs, Dale Street Methodist Church is running the Alpha Course, a chance to discover more about faith in a friendly, welcoming setting. Starting on Monday 15th September at 7pm and running for 6 weeks, we start with a hot meal. It's a chance to chat, discuss and debate all things Jesus, and ask questions like.. 'is there really more to life than this?' Just come along, it's all free..More info at: dalestreet-methodist.org.uk

Peace to you all, I look forward to getting to know you.

Revd Tina Brooker

DIARY OCTOBER 2025

Thurs 2nd Oct 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 3rd Oct 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 5th October 10.30am Service led by Rev Nick Stanyon

Tues 7th October 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 9th October 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 10th October 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sat 11th October 9-11am Big Breakfast

Sun 12th October 10.30am Service led by Mt Trevor Pethick

Tues 14th October 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 16th October 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 17th October 6.30pm Joint bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 19th October 10.30am Service led by the Elders

Tues 21st October 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 23rd October 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 24th October 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 26th October 10.30am Service of holy Communion led by Rev Tina Brooker

Tues 28th October 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 30th October 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 31st October 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church



Warwick District
Faiths Forum

WELLBEING CONFERENCE

Sat 11th Oct 2025 9.00am-1pm - Dormer Centre, Leamington Spa

Agenda:

Staying Safe - Mr Ben Brook, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service

Mental Wellbeing - Coventry, Warwickshire and Worcestershire Mind

The Sciences of Ageing and the Culture of Youth - Dr Martina Zimmerman

Online Safety - Harm Reduction Hub, WCC

Domestic Abuse - Refuge

DIARY NOVEMBER 2025

Sat 1st November 10 for 10.30am Congregational Meeting. **Everyone welcome - please try to attend**

Sun 2nd November 10.30am Service led by Mr Peter Ashton

Tues 4th November 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 6th November 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 7th November Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sat 8th November 9-11am Big Breakfast

Sun 9th November 10.30am Service led by Mr Edward Royle

Tues 11th November 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 13th November 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 14th November 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 16th November 10.30am Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Nick Stanyon

Tues 18th November 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 20th November 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 21st November 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

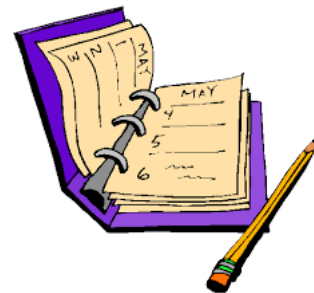
Sun 23rd November 10.30am Service led by Rev Tina Brooker

Tues 25th November 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 27th November 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 28th November 6.60pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 30th November 10.30am Service led by Rev Sally Jones



COFFEE ROTA

(PLEASE ARRANGE SWAP IF NECESSARY)

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

Thank you!

Sun 5th Oct Mary and Margaret

Sun 2nd Nov Jeni and Bridget

Sun 12th Oct John and Ruth

Sun 9th Nov Margaret and Julia

Sun 19th Oct Brenda and Alan

Sun 16th Nov John and Ruth

Sun 26th Oct Jean and Sally

Sun 23rd Nov Brenda and Alan

Sun 30th Nov Sally and Jean

FAMILY NEWS

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**

May they know of your nearness to them.

And we say Goodbye and Godspeed to **Jherell**, who left for pastures new across the Atlantic on 30th September—picture and report in the next issue.



ALL ARE WELCOME



After a break during August, All are Welcome resumed on 4th September. 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.

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 page 8). Pop the dates in your diary, and come along to enjoy tasty food and good company.



Sat 11th October

Sat 8th November

9-11am



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

GOODBYE TO REVEREND ROB ANNING

On August 11th 2024 we welcomed Rob and his wife Pat to Radford Road.

He had kindly come out of retirement to spend a year with us to provide Pastoral care one day a week and hold a service once a month. We have really appreciated all he has done for us. He held a weekly Bible study on Tuesday mornings and in the afternoon visited members of the congregation. Rob said on many an occasion that it was "the perfect job for him". Not only did he preach an excellent sermon, he also attended the Elders meetings, took funerals and a baptism, and wrote front articles for the newsletter. We certainly kept him busy.



The year has gone by very quickly, and sadly on Sunday 3rd 2025 Rob held his last service with us. It has been an absolute pleasure having both him and his wife Pat at Radford Road, and we hope they will come to see us from time to time, they would be very welcome. To show our huge appreciation Bridget gave a short speech of thanks and presented them both with gifts along with a card and cake.

HELLO TO REVEREND TINA BROOKER

On Sunday August 31st we were very happy to welcome Reverend Tina Brooker as our new Methodist Minister to Radford Road Church. She led a joint communion service alongside Reverend Nick Stanyon.

Tina gave us an insight into her history before joining us. She had been a probationer presbyter covering Dale Street, Cubbington and Kineton, but will now be minister covering all four of the churches.

She and her husband, who is a C of E minister, have recently moved from Solihull into a manse in Milverton. Unfortunately, within a few days of



moving they had a flood through the house and were moved out to a hotel, whilst repairs were done. We really hope that their future there will now be a settled one.

During her talk she explained that as Radford Rd Church was 149 years old "this is the 150th chapter of Radford Road Church"

We look forward to Tina's time with us where we can work and grow together.

MAINTENANCE REPORT 2025



Work completed –

- The lightning conductor has been checked and is OK
- The fire alarm system has been checked but there are a couple of emergency lights that require replacing.
- The light in the kitchen has been replaced.
- Leaking tap in the flower room and a leaking radiator repaired
- Microphones in the Church repaired but then the mice got to the leads so the lectern microphone had to be repaired again!
- The plaster work in the lounge has been completed.



Before



After

Work to do -

- Complete the roof repairs
- Repair of the dishwasher in the vestibule kitchen

Manse -

The good news is that the manse has been sold subject to contract.

Bridget Halpin

(As reported by BBC News 13th July 2025)

HUNDREDS GATHER AT BOURNEMOUTH BEACH FOR MASS BAPTISM IN THE SEA

Hundreds of people have taken part in an outdoor service which saw 92 people baptised in the sea. Congregations from five churches across Bournemouth gathered next to Boscombe Pier for the event.

Peter Baker, senior minister at Lansdowne Church, led the ceremony described as a celebration of faith.



He said the public display was to "bring together Christians who believe in Jesus Christ and want to tell the world that"



Mr Baker said the church was "alive and kicking" in Bournemouth and it had seen a "quiet revival" post Covid. He said it felt like a festival and the churches were planning to do similar events in the future for people who were "unashamed" of their faith.

THE HOLY WELL, SOUTHAM

A fairly short walk around Southam will bring you to the Holy Well which is by the river Stowe. It has been in existence for over one thousand years and was last renovated in 2005-7, when the site was restored with seats and a palisade fence with carvings designed by artist Will Glanfield as part of the Southam Stories project, paid for by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It is thought to be the oldest recorded Holy Well in England, one reason for it being a holy well is due to its association with the legend of Saint Fremund, son of King Offa. Whilst praying after a battle at Radford Semele, one of King Offa's commanders beheaded him. It is said Fremund carried his head some distance when a 'spring burst forth'. presumably the Holy Well. He washed his wounds, fell prostrate and died. His body was then taken to Offchurch to be buried.

The well is a Grade II Listed Building which was first recorded as part of the Manor of Southam in 998 and in the years since, the natural spring water has provided treatment for eye problems, probably because of its clear, clean nature compared with other local water sources. It is thought to be a reason why Henry Lilley Smith in 1818 developed his Eye and Ear Hospital in Southam, in the building, now a wedding venue, called Warwick House on Warwick Road, Southam.

The well is an unusual half-moon stone structure holding water, with three strange heads out of whose mouths the water flows down to the river. Its source of clean water was so important, that at the enclosure of Southam lands in 1760, the Holy Well was specifically mentioned to be enclosed by posts

and rails and kept for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Southam and not to be acquired privately. A footpath from the town was laid and the upkeep of the well still remains with the people of the town.

Sadly, according to an article written in 1855 in the Warwickshire Advertiser, it was in decline, and despite local attempts to clean it up, it remained in decline. Then in 1925 the water was diverted into a reservoir to provide water for Southam and Long Itchington, this resulted in reducing its flow to such an extent that it ran dry in drought periods.

In 1958, an article written in the Leamington Courier reported that Warwickshire County Council was going to pay half the £150 cost with the Parish Council for restoring the well. Brian Townsend in his book 'Southam Through the Centuries' in 1981 noted it was little more than a trickle, and it was still dry in 1991. However, the town in 2005 discovered why the water supply was poor and restored it, and with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund the Holy Well was fully renovated as it is seen today.



MISSION PROJECTS

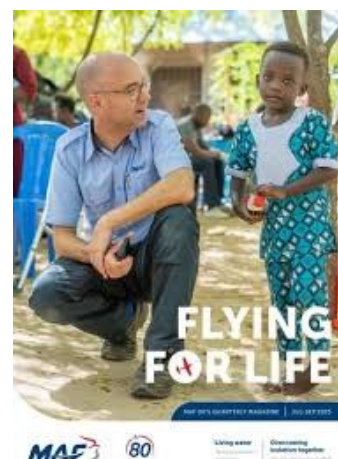


Our Mission Project last year was Embrace. During our service on Sunday August 10th, we were very pleased to welcome Rev Su McClellan, engagement lead of Embrace, who is based at Coventry Cathedral.

Margaret H presented her with our donation of £1000, after which Su gave a talk about the work involved. It was very interesting but emotional to hear of the problems faced by the people in that part of the world, and the all the help that Embrace the Middle East can offer. Su has been out over 30 times. Before the current war began she has taken Embrace supporters on tours to see and understand the work that is done. At the end of her talk she asked that we continue to pray and act for Embrace.



Our Mission Project this year is MAF. Mission Aviation Fellowship is the world's largest humanitarian air operator. For over 75 years they have been flying light aircraft over jungles, mountains, swamps and deserts. This has enables more than 1,500 aid, development and mission organisations to bring medical care, emergency relief and long term development. Their pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicine, anything that can only be safely and speedily delivered by air. Faithful supporters give and pray to make all of this possible.



DEAR GOD

Send your peace

Peace to this world

Peace to this country

Peace for my friends and my community.

Peace for my family and my loved ones

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

And God, give me your peace,

And then help me to give it away

As a peacemaker to my family and my loved ones

As a peacemaker to my friends and community

As a peacemaker for this country

And a peacemaker for this world

AMEN



CHARTERHOUSE, COVENTRY

Sally writes:

We visited Charterhouse in Coventry, a Grade I listed, 14th century medieval monastic house surrounded by spacious green areas: 1.7 acres of walled garden surrounded by wildlife pond and community orchard, with the river Sherbourne running through the grounds. It is home to some of the finest examples of medieval and renaissance art in England.



Founded in 1381, Coventry Charterhouse has served many different purposes. From a 14th century monastery for a silent order of monks to a family home and later as a garden that produced exotic fruit for wealthy locals. Former notable inhabitants include Robert Dudley, famous favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, and John Whittingham who cultivated the nursery and walled garden for food production. In later years, the house has a whole new tale to tell, with members of the community coming together to save the building from sale and possible demolition. It is now open for the public to appreciate as a National Trust property.



In the Charterhouse you will find wall paintings over three floors of exceptional quality and national significance. The medieval depiction of The Crucifixion is the only surviving monumental painting from an English Carthusian priory, although incomplete due to building alterations, the paintings are some of the finest examples of medieval and renaissance art in England.

Whilst we were there, we were lucky enough to see the Helios Art installation. An illuminated 7 metre round sculpture by Luke Jerram made up from 400,000 photographs of the sun's surface. Gentle music played and lots of people lay underneath to enjoy the experience. The sculpture is currently touring the country.



In this extract from "CHURCH CHUCKLES (amusing anecdotes from the life of a church minister) the late Revd John Carrier remembered his time at theological college

COLLEGE DAYS

On the first evening at collegeeach of the 'freshers' was allocated a job which they had to undertake during their first year, for the benefit of the college community. My job had the wonderful title 'Master of the Rolls'it entailed the regular checking of all the loos to ensure that they were stocked with the necessary rolls of paper.





ECO CHURCH: SOAP NUTS



Have you ever heard of Soap Nuts? If you would prefer to find a way of cleaning your laundry without using chemical detergents, you might want to give them a try.

What are Soap Nuts?

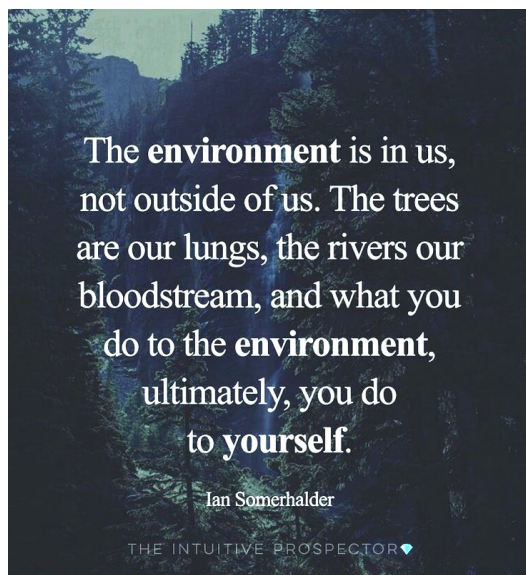
Soap nuts are the fruit of the Sapindus family of trees - full of naturally occurring soaps and surfactants, they've been used for washing for centuries. They contain natural soap called saponin which is released when in contact with water. They have wonderful cleaning properties, all without the use of chemicals such as phosphates and SLS! Natural soap that actually grows on trees, you can't get more eco-friendly than that! Soapnuts are 100% biodegradable, vegan and natural, they are ideal for sensitive skin as they are hypoallergenic, odourless and come from pure nature. Unlike commercial soaps, soapnuts won't harm your skin or the environment making them the perfect natural alternative to conventional detergent and synthetic soaps.

So What Do You Do With Them?



Putting it simply you clean with them, but you can literally use them to clean everything including your hair and body! They are often supplied with a small muslin bag, or you can just put 5-7 shells into a sock, tie it and pop it into the washing machine with your dirty clothes, adding a few drops of an essential oil if you want your washing to smell perfumed. Save the used shells because they can be used again for up to 4 more times

Soap Nuts are sold by various retailers online, including Amazon - there don't seem to be any local suppliers, but if you know of any, let us know!



A FLASHBACK TO 50 YEARS AGO

If you are part of the Radford Road Church WhatsApp group, you will already have seen this. It is a cutting from the Methodist Recorder, published on Friday August 29th 2025, reproducing an article about the Holiday Bible Club held at Trinity Methodist Church in August 1975. (Joan P, who sometimes plays the organ for us when Margaret H is away) very kindly sent it—no doubt it will bring back memories for some of you.



Veronica found the photo above from 1976, which shows Mavis Turrell on the piano



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)



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(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 23rd November 2025 if you have any items suitable for publication in the next issue of the newsletter