

Dear church family,

We are fast approaching the season of Lent

Lent is a gift to the Church, a season of grace that invites us to walk more closely with God. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (18th Feb) it lasts forty days, reflecting Jesus' time in the wilderness and calling us to a deeper way of discipleship, rooted in God's love.



John Wesley spoke often of holiness of heart and life, a faith that is not only believed but lived. Lent gives us space to examine our lives. Through prayer and acts of generosity, we are invited to attend again to God's grace at work within us and among us. These practices are not about earning God's favour, but about responding to the grace that God has already freely given.

The ashes of Ash Wednesday serve to remind us of our dependence on God and of our need for forgiveness, yet they also point us towards hope. In Methodist tradition, we trust in God's transforming grace, a grace that meets us where we are, renews us, and sends us out in love and service. Lent is therefore not a gloomy season, but an honest one, where we bring our whole selves before God.

We travel this Lenten journey together. We are strengthened through worship, fellowship and our shared commitment to care for others. As we follow Jesus on the way of the cross, we are reminded that God is always at work bringing new life out of brokenness.

This Lent, we might prayerfully ask, *What might I need to lay aside in order to follow Christ more deeply in 2026?*

A good question to reflect on, in a quiet moment....

Peace to you all,

Revd Tina

DIARY FEBRUARY 2026

Sun 1st Feb 10.30am Service led by Mr Malcolm Aldridge

Tues 3rd Feb 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 5th Feb 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 6th Feb 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 8th Feb 10.30am Service led by the Elders

Tues 10th Feb 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 12th Feb 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 13th Feb 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sat 14th Feb 9-11am Big Breakfast

Sun 15th Feb 10.30am Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Nick Stanyon

Tues 17th Feb 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 19th Feb 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 20th Feb 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 22nd Feb 10.30am Service led by Mrs Jill Lloyd

Tues 24th Feb 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 26th Feb 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 27th Feb 6.30 pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

DIARY MARCH 2026 **PREACHERS' LIST NOT YET AVAILABLE, DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

Sun 1st March 10.30am Service led by

Tues 3rd March 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 5th March 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 6th March 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 8th March 10.30am Service led by

Tues 10th March 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 12th March 10am-12noon

Fri 13th March 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sat 14th March 9-11am Big Breakfast

Sun 15th March 10.39am Service led by

Tues 17th March 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 19th March 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 20th March 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sat 21st March **NB 10.00 start** Congregational Meeting

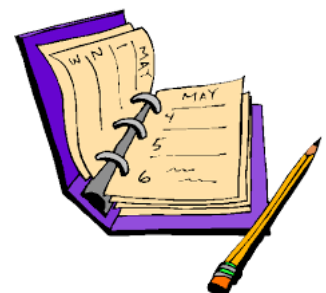
Sun 22nd March 10.30am Service led by

Tues 24th March 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 26th March 10am-12noon

Fri 27th March 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 29th March 10.30am Service led by



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 Feb 1st Ruth and John

Sun Feb 8th Brenda and Alan

Sun Feb 15th Sally and Margaret

Sun Feb 22nd Julia and Jean

Sun March 1st Bridget and Mary

Sun March 8th Ruth and John

Sun March 15th Brenda and Alan

Sun March 22nd Jeni and Julia

Sun March 29th Margaret and Mary



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.

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



Sat 14th February

Sat 14th March

9-11am



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 enabled 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



FAMILY NEWS

We are sad to report the deaths of Rosemary Moore on December 9th 2025, Janine's husband Brian Jones on December 30th 2025, Rev Nick Stanyon's father on January 2nd 2026 and Mavis Moore on January 10th 2026



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

We give thanks for the gradual recovery of Pat's son Malcolm

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 Kath, Vi; all those involved with the Night Shelter**

May they know of your nearness to them.



ROSEMARY MOORE 1933-2025

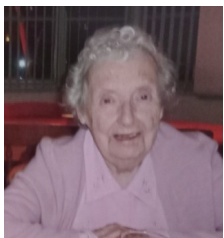
Rosemary's funeral on 13th January 2025 was well attended by family and friends. A service of thanksgiving for her life, led by Rev Tina Brooker, was held at church, before the committal at Oakley Wood Cemetery.

A long-standing member of Radford Road Church, for many years Rosemary was the church organist, a post she took up in 1955, following in the footsteps of her grandfather, who was organist at Warwick St Methodist Church. Her father very generously donated the present organ to the church, dedicated in 1959.

Rosemary married her husband Rex, a farmer, in 1961 and they went on to have two sons, Adrian and Richard. As well as a busy home life, she enjoyed amateur dramatics, and for 60 years was a member of the Warwick and Leamington Operatic Society, not only as part of the chorus but also taking starring roles in some productions. She and Rex both very much enjoyed participating in various productions at church, as those of you with long memories will recall with fondness. Rosemary was also a leading member of the Flower Rota, and as a keen cook used her gifts to contribute to church teas, meals, cake sales etc.

Once she gave up driving she wasn't able to attend services at Radford Road, but often accompanied Adrian to evensong at St Johns, where he is organist - and they were both regular attendees at our monthly Big Breakfast until shortly before her death. She will be very much missed.

MAVIS MOORE 1923-2026 Those of you who attended Wednesday Worship will remember Mavis (no relation to Rosemary) who has died peacefully at the age of 102. She had been bed-bound for quite some time, but with the aid of carers and family she was able to remain in her own home until the end. For many years, Mavis raised funds for Avon Cat Rescue. She leaves her son Rodney, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, not forgetting her niece Lynne, who was a very devoted visitor.





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

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



AND

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



* Jennie M also recommends the morning service from Radio Ulster, also available from BBC sounds*



ECO CHURCH - ANIMAL WELFARE

On 22nd December 2025, the government published its Animal Welfare Strategy, containing a wide range of measures designed to protect wild animals, pets and farmed animals across the country.

- ◆ There's good news for farm animals, with a commitment to phasing out cages for laying hens and farrowing crates for pigs.
- ◆ The government has also acknowledged that we must move away from factory farming's cruellest practices, such as mutilations and fast-growing breeds
- ◆ Important steps have been taken to reduce the suffering of fish, with the introduction of humane slaughtering requirements.
- ◆ Sadly, there is no mention of the Hunting Trophies Act, which would ban hunting trophy imports to the UK, protecting endangered species from further exploitation



CHRISTINGLE 14TH DEC 2025

Our annual Christingle service was led by Mrs Sheila Brown. Sadly, we had no children this year, but those present enjoyed making the Christingles, symbolising God's love for the world, his provision of good things, and above all, his son Jesus Christ, the Light of the World



CAROL SERVICE 21st DEC 2025

On the 4th Sunday in Advent, we held our annual carols and readings service. This year it was led by our Methodist minister Rev Tina Brooker.

The service was very well attended. All the readings were read by members of the congregation along with Sue D's daughter who was visiting. Margaret H played an instrumental Christmas piece by Bach.

The last song of the service was "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Tina handed out beautifully drawn cards depicting each verse, to members of the congregation, which we then held up to display, as we all joined her in singing along. It was great fun which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

At the end of the service, we were offered (non-alcoholic) mulled wine with mince pies.



Jennie M has written a very interesting article about Hudson Taylor, a missionary whose name may not be familiar to you. Jennie's Godmother Marion is a descendant of Hudson Taylor's sister

HUDSON TAYLOR



James Hudson Taylor is regarded as one of the most influential missionaries of all time. He was an English Protestant Christian Missionary to China and he founded the China Inland Mission (CIM), now known as OMF International (Overseas Missionary Fellowship)

*Yours faithfully in Christ,
J. Hudson Taylor*

Hudson Taylor was born in 1832 in Barnsley, Yorkshire. His father was a Pharmacist and a Methodist Lay Preacher. At the age of 17 he had a religious conversion and he felt a calling on his life to become a Christian.

Hudson devoted his life to working with poor and destitute people in the slums, while working as a Doctor in Hull. In 1852 Hudson offered himself as a missionary with the Chinese Evangelical Society. It wasn't until June 1865 on a beach in the UK in Brighton that Taylor had a heavenly vision. This vision was so powerful to him that he then went on to found the China Inland Mission.

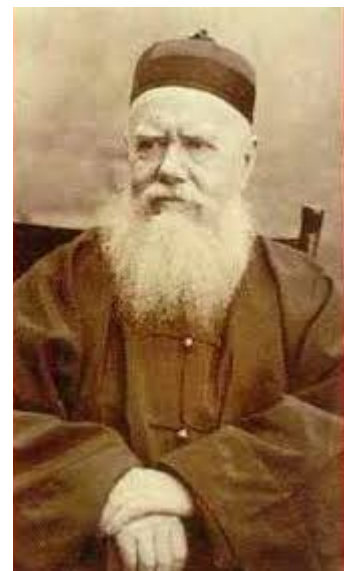
Hudson Taylor lived in China for over 51 years, and CIM that he created became one of the largest missionary organisations in China.

The Chinese Inland Mission core values were not to appeal for funds, but to "rely on God alone" for provision.

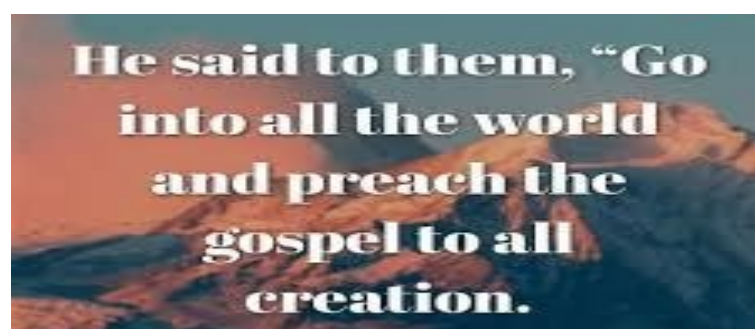
CIM was inclusive in accepting missionaries from all social classes and levels of education, as well as single women. Their missionaries lived as the Chinese people, adopting their unique culture, and they dressed and ate the same way to help to succeed in their Mission in China

In total 800 missionaries came to China, 125 schools were founded, and 20,000 Chinese people converted to Christianity.

Jennie Morris

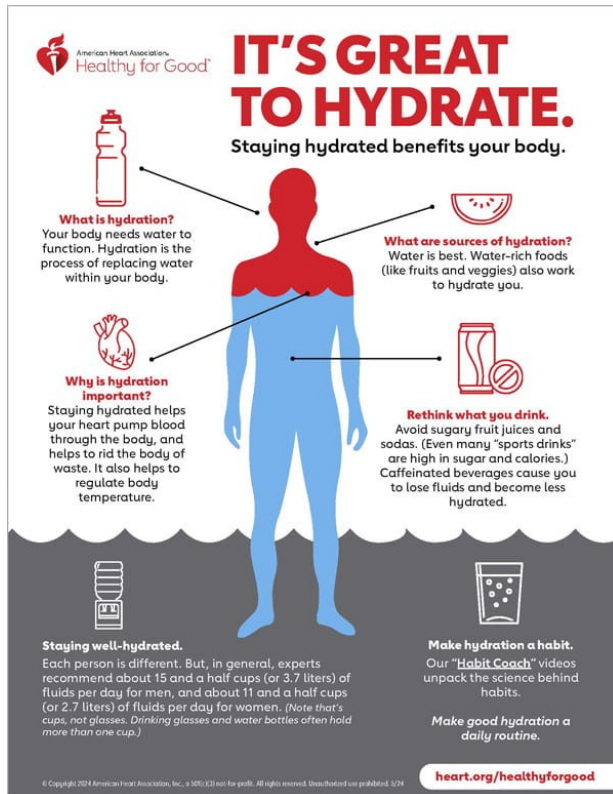


Hudson Taylor in Chinese dress



GET DRINKING!

The impact of hydration on mood and focus.



Research has started to show water plays a big role in how well we think, feel and stay focused. Even mild dehydration – less than 1 or 2 % of body weight – can affect mood, attention, memory and how sharp our mind feels.

When you're a little dehydrated your brain does not work in quite the same way. Attention span drops and reaction times slow, mental fatigue sets in and decision making becomes harder. The dip in that performance is fast, even small drops in fluid levels can make a difference.

Water affects mood too. Staying hydrated people feel more alert and less irritable. Increasing fluid intake can help reduce fatigue and improve overall wellbeing.

Make water an easy habit, like any basic food group – not optional but essential.

Of course we must remember that not everyone has free access to safe drinking water. **Wateraid** is a charity which aims to provide sustainable water and sanitation systems to those in need

1 in 10 people don't have clean water close to home. 2.2 billion people, that's 1 in 4 people, don't have safe water

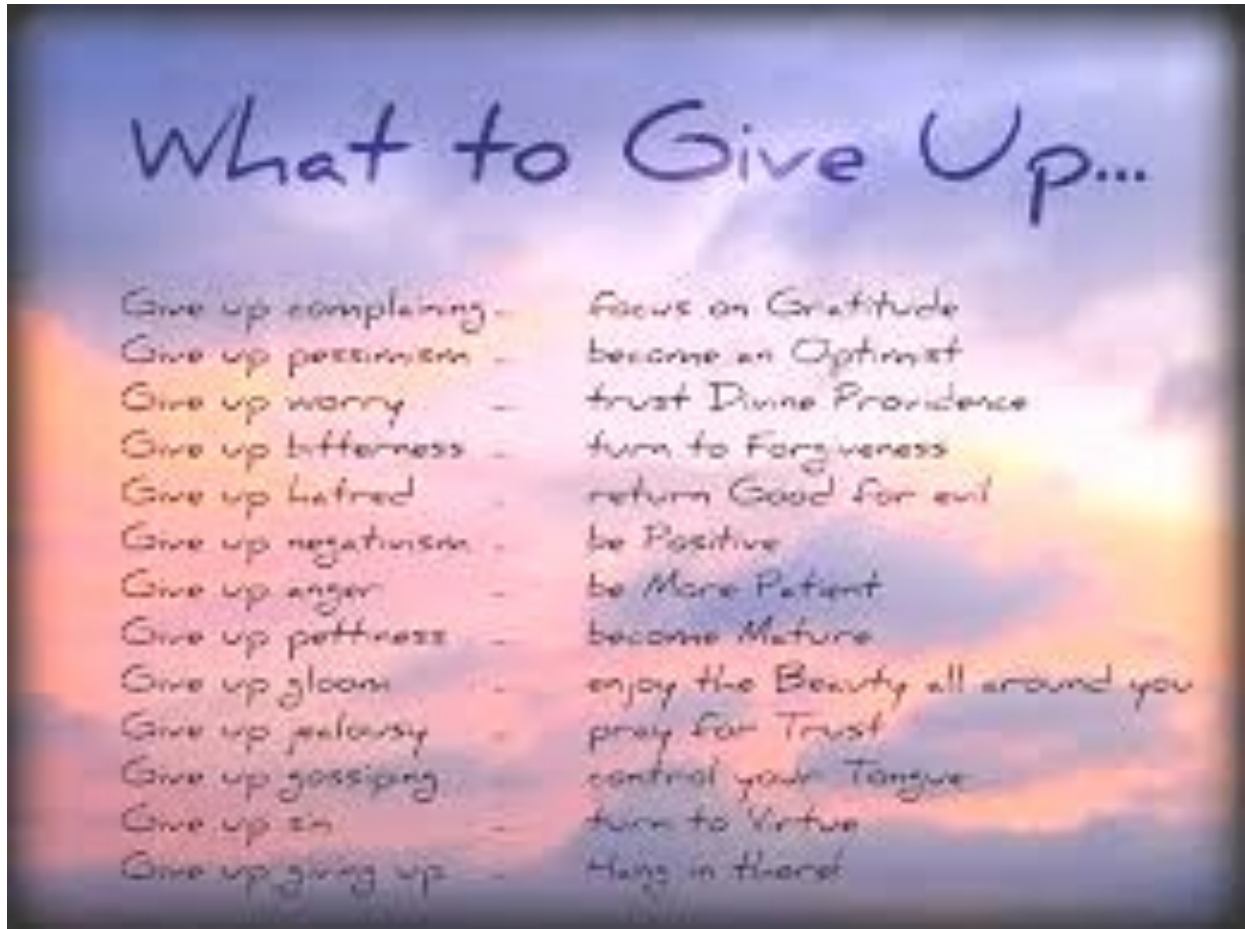
Wateraid have helped more than 29 million people all over the world gain access to clean water since 1981 Clean water means safer births and healthier families. It keeps children in school and adults in work. It means thriving communities and stronger economies – now, and for generations to come.

It's one thing that changes everything.



You can donate at www.wateraid.com

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING UP FOR LENT?



SOME PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR LENTEN SACRIFICE

- Give up coffee (or only make it at home)
- Give up alcohol
- Give up certain social media sites, or limited them to certain days/time of day
- Give up electronics after a certain time in the day (i.e., no screens after 8 p.m.)
- Sleep without a pillow
- Wake up without hitting the snooze button
- Shower without hot (with only lukewarm) water
- Keep the thermostat several degrees cooler
- Park in the back of the carpark and say a prayer as you walk to the supermarket
- Abstain from reading gossip/rumour sites

SAINTS' DAYS OBSERVED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH

We are all aware of St Valentine's which is on February 14th. However there are other Saints also recognised during February and March. These are brief descriptions of three of them.

In Ireland February 1st is St Brigid's Day.

St Brigid was born in the 5th century, close to what is now the Northern Ireland border. It is believed she was born and died on February 1st. It would seem one of her parents was baptised a Christian by St Patrick. She was known for her charitable and kind nature. She became a nun and aspired to build a church. She was initially denied the land for this, but was later granted 'only the amount her cloak covered'. A miracle is said to have occurred when her cloak grew until it reached a sufficient size for a church to be built on.

St Brigid's day marks the beginning of spring. She is the patron saint of livestock, babies, new mothers and nuns.



St Brigid's crosses are traditionally made on February 1st. They are hung in houses to protect them from fire and evil. A new cross is made each year and the old one burned to keep fire from the house. It is believed she wove the cross at the death bed of her father or a pagan lord, who asked to be baptised once they heard what it meant.

In Wales St David's Day is celebrated on March 1st.



St David is believed to have been born in AD 500 to St Non, in the area just south of the city and later baptised in Porth Clais. According to legend his birth was foretold by an angel some 30 years before his birth. David had a religious upbringing and upon reaching adulthood was ordained a priest, working firstly in Wales before travelling to England, Brittany and even Jerusalem.

David is said to have performed numerous miracles through his life, including restoring the sight of a blind man by making the sign of the cross. During a sermon in Llanddewi Brefi he made a hill rise up from under him so that he could address the large crowd better. A dove landed on his shoulder, an animal David is associated with. He founded a monastery, where the Cathedral now sits. It is the final resting place of David.

During what is thought to be his final sermon, he told the crowds to: 'Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do'. The phrase 'Gwyewch y petau bychain mewn bywyd' - 'Do the little things in life' - is still a well known saying in Wales.

In Ireland St Patrick's Day is March 17th

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. Patrick was born around 385 in Scotland, probably Kilpatrick. His parents were Calpornius and Conchessa, who were Romans living in Britain in charge of the colonies. Around the age of 14 he was captured and taken to Ireland as a slave. He learned the language and practices of the people who held him. During this time he turned to God in prayer.

He escaped and returned to England, where he had a dream in which the people of Ireland were begging him to return to them.

He studied for priesthood and was ordained as a bishop. For 40 years he preached the Gospel and worked many miracles. He converted Kings, their families and entire kingdoms to Christianity. He built churches all over the country. He used the shamrock to explain the Trinity and it has been associated with him and the Irish ever since.





MAINTENANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2026

Work completed:

- There was an issue with the heating in the hall, which thankfully has now been resolved. There was a leaking pipe under the floor. Fortunately the folk at the Night Shelter who were sleeping in the hall over the Christmas holiday had heating.
- We hope a decision on repairs to the church roof will be made in February, so the scaffolding may come down before the summer.
- Manse - the sale has now completed and the new people have moved in.

Bridget Halpin

A Prayer for the Bleak Midwinter

This time of year, when every bough is bare
And every corner of the sky a deadened gray,
It's hard to find signs of life in the created world—
And maybe also in ourselves.
Long past the vibrant joy of Christmas,
Not yet arrived at the nourishment of Lent,
The world around us and the world within us
Can seem decidedly dormant. Stilled. Frozen over.
In these cold and darkened days,
Remind us that you gently cradle all seasons,
And let us see with fresh hope the new life
That is borne within dry branches.
Remind us that the ice will melt,
First in tiny rivulets, then in rushing streams—
That living water will yet flow.



Cameron Bellm

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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 by phone, text or email

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 67copies of this Magazine are being sent out.

Please email Jean or Sally by Sun 22nd March 2026 if you have any items suitable for publication in the next issue of the newsletter