



**JUNE -
JULY**

MINISTER'S LETTER FROM REV. NICK STANYON



I've been thinking a lot about bridge building, recently. Thanks to HS2, I expect most of us have. It seems everywhere I drive from my home, one road or another will be closed because of it. But by the looks of it, maybe by the time you read this, some of them will finally be open. We wait and see!

It's been fascinating watching the bridge building process.

To start with, I must say, I was livid at the destruction. So many beautiful, mature trees torn down - it was agony to watch. I was tempted join the protesters and chain myself to a favourite oak!

Then came the frustration at road closures, and at the seemingly slow pace of development.

Now, I think it's more fascination that consumes me, as I watch the various stages of development, sometimes with quite innovating methods too.

What I've learnt most of all, I think, is that bridge building takes a lot of time, effort, and imagination. It also involves quite painful destruction, change, and patience until at last the two sides are joined once again and we can travel on new roads in peace.

In truth, I know little about the engineering of bridge building. That said, Pentecost, which we continue to celebrate in our churches, is very much about bridge building. From day one, when folk from so many varied countries and cultures, heard the good news in their own language, the Spirit came to unite us. Soon, the vast chasm between Jews and the despised Gentiles was being crossed as the Spirit came on both alike. It took a lot of getting your head round, for some. By looking at the state of our world, with rising (not Christian) nationalism, a growth in 'us and them' mentality, prejudice and intolerance, then we are forced to acknowledge it is difficult still.

More reason, I think, to remember that the Spirit comes to smash down walls, build bridges, and create unity. As disciples of Christ, called to embrace the stranger, love one another and keep the unity and peace that Christ has given, we really need to not conform ourselves to the ways of the world and to move instead in the Spirit's flow. That's in our personal relationships, as well as in the world.

For Christ has entrusted to us 'the ministry of reconciliation' - that's 'bridge building' by another name!

God bless.

Nick

'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you' (Ephesians 4:32)

DIARY JUNE 2026

Tues 2nd June 10.30am Bible Study

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

Fri 5th June 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 7th June 10.30am Service led by Dr Denys Hill

Tues 9th June 10.30am Bible Study

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

Fri 12th June 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sat 13th June 9-11am Big Breakfast

Sun 14th June 10.30am Service led by the Elders

Tues 16th June 10.30am Bible Study

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

Fri 19th June 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 21st June 10.30am Service led by Mrs Vanessa Caley

Tues 23rd June 10.30am Bible Study

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

Fri 26th June 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 28th June 10.30am Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Tina Brooker

Tues 30th June 10.30am Bible Study

DIARY JULY 2026

Thurs 2nd July 10am All Are Welcome

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

Sun 5th July 10.30am Service led by Mrs Jill Lloyd

Tues 7th July 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 9th July 10am-12noon All are Welcome

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

Sat 11th July 9-11am Big Breakfast

Sun 12th July 10.30am Service led by the Elders

Tues 14th July 10.30am Bible Study

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

Fri 17th July 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 19th July 10.30am Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Nick Stanyon

Tues 21st July 10.30am Bible Study

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

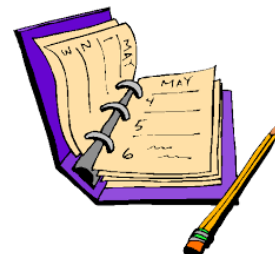
Fri 24th July 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 26th July 10.30am Service led by Rev Tina Brooker

Tues 28th July 10.30am Bible Study

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

Fri 31st July 6.30pm Bible Study, Lillington Free Church



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 June 7th Margaret and Sally

Sun July 5th Bridget and Jeni

Sun June 14th Mary and Julia

Sun July 12th Sally and Julia

Sun June 21st John and Ruth

Sun July 19th Jean and Mary

Sun June 28th Brenda and Alan

Sun July 26th John and Ruth



JULIAN'S BAPTISM, Sunday 14TH June 2026 at 4pm

Leamington Baptist Church, Chandos Street, L/Spa

Julian C has been worshipping with us at Radford Road for some time now, and wishes to affirm his faith by total immersion baptism, symbolising his new life in Christ.

Leamington Baptist Church have very kindly agreed to let us use their premises, as Radford Road cannot offer the facility of a pool. Revd Tina will lead the service, and Revd Nick will give the Reflection

It would be wonderful if as many as possible would come to support Julian, and share in this joyful occasion - please put the date in your diary

EASTER DAY

On Easter Sunday, 5th April 2026, our service was taken by Revd Brian Mason from Stratford. During the first hymn, the congregation brought forward offerings of spring flowers, which were incorporated into our traditional Easter cross - a colourful expression of the joy of Eastertide.



FAMILY NEWS

Please remember in your prayers those who have been bereaved

We think especially of **Ruth and John E** whose son Martin died very suddenly in May. Comfort them and their family in their grief

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

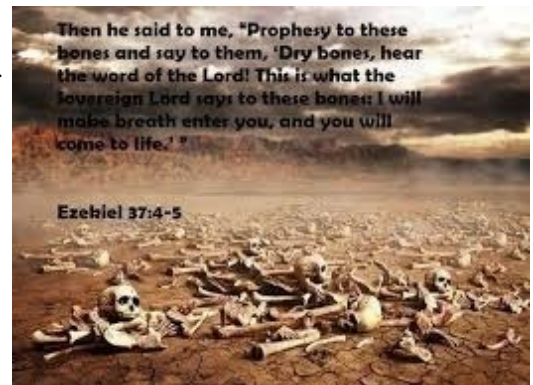
Give them peace and comfort in the knowledge that you are close to them. Please especially remember in your prayers **Ann, Anne, Geoff, Gill & Eric, Hazel, Kath, Vi; all those involved with the Night Shelter**

May they know of your nearness to them.



EXTRA FAMILY NEWS

Anne's son Corin Pilling is the Officer for Vocational Flourishing at the Methodist Church. On Tuesday 12th May 2026 he led the Daily Service (see below) on BBC Radio 4. The theme was "Wellbeing: Breathe", and in it he explored the vision of the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel, chapter 37



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*



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



ALL ARE WELCOME

Every Thursday morning from 10 - 12 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 13th June

Sat 11th July

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



SOMETIMES WE JUST MISS THE POINT



Early one morning, the husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the coffee. Finally, the wife folded her arms and said, “You have to make the coffee. It’s in the Bible!”

The husband was shocked. “It is not! Show me!”

Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, “It says right here — HEBREWS!”

MALLIFUFF (SCOTS)

BEING UTTERLY DEVOID OF
ANY ENERGY
TO GET THINGS DONE.

POETRY LOVERS

SUMMER



Roll on the summer
Scents and sights and sounds
Flowers of every colour
With butterflies around.



Roll on the summer
Fields of golden hay
Stretch to the blue horizons
Tempting us away.



Roll on the summer
Children's laughter in the air
Music from the bandstand;
In the park, the summer fair.



Roll on the summer
Fire up the barbecue
Iced drinks in the garden
With friends both old and new



Julie S

A PRAYER GIVING THANKS FOR SUMMER

Father, Creator of all, thank You for summer!

**Thank you for the warmth of the sun
and the increased daylight.**

**Thank You for the beauty I see all around me
and for the opportunity to be outside and enjoy Your creation.**

**Thank You for the increased time I have to be with my friends and family,
and for the more casual pace of the summer season.**

Draw me closer to You this summer.

**Teach me how I can pray
no matter where I am or what I am doing.**

**Warm my soul with the awareness of Your presence
and light my path with Your Word and Counsel.**

**As I enjoy Your creation, create in me
a pure heart and a hunger and a thirst for You.**

• *Author Unknown*



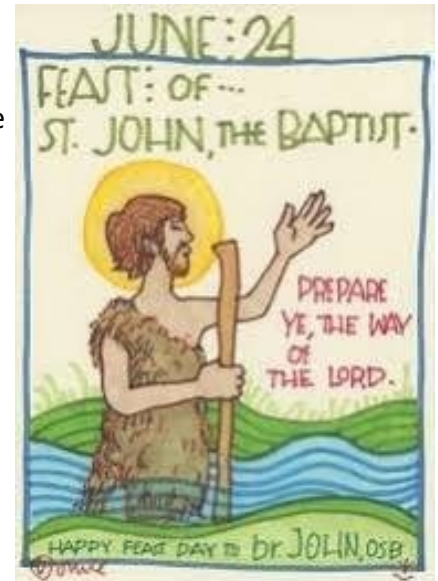
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST DAY

This year St John the Baptist day is on Wednesday 24th of June. It is widely observed across Europe, Latin America and Canada.

This high ranking solemnity commemorates his birth six months before Christmas, as according to the Bible, John was six months older than Jesus.

It is one of the few saints' days that celebrates a birth (nativity) rather than a death (feast day), highlighting his crucial role in preparing for the Messiah.

The date, close to the summer solstice, symbolises John's prophecy, "He must increase, I must decrease," as days begin to shorten



Celebrations often include bonfires (known as St. John's Fire or *chavande* in France), festivals, and sometimes fire-jumping, particularly in European countries like Spain and France.



St. John the Baptist is the patron saint of baptism, converts, and various occupations, such as printers, tailors - and prisoners



PREPARING FOR TIMES AHEAD - GETTING READY TO GO

As time marches on quite quickly, could you please put on your thinking caps.

There are items within the church which have been gifted/donated by family or friends over the years. Where possible we would like to be able offer them back to the families, when the time comes for us to be sorting and clearing. We know it's a job which none of us is looking forward to, but it would be very helpful if you are able to make suggestions to enable us to draw up a list in preparation.

Thank you





ECO CHURCH—A LOVELY LOO!

Does your toilet have stubborn stains that make it look dirty even when you've just cleaned it? Don't worry, it's not poor hygiene but a build-up of limescale caused by hard water.

Limescale starts off as a pale greyish deposit, but over time minerals in the water turn it an unpleasant brown shade that can make your WC look far from fresh. Many people will reach for the bleach, but apart from not being an environmentally friendly option it doesn't actually remove limescale, just bleaches it white so that it's harder to see.

What you really want to do is to get rid of the limescale altogether, and for that you want to use **citric acid**. This is available from supermarkets (either with the cleaning products, or in the home baking section) from chemists like Boots, or online. Citric acid is a natural, biodegradable cleaner that really tackles hard water deposits but is much kinder to the planet than chlorine bleach. It works by reacting with the limescale to form a soluble salt that is easy to wash away.

To clean your loo with it, first boil a kettle and pour the hot (not boiling) water carefully around the toilet bowl to help loosen the limescale. Next scatter 125g/4oz of citric acid around the bowl, pop the lid down and leave it to soak—ideally overnight, if you can. The longer it sits, the better it works.

In the morning, flush the toilet and give it a quick once-over with your toilet brush. The stains should lift away easily, but if any stubborn stains remain, repeat the process once more.

A word of warning - never mix citric acid with bleach. The combination releases harmful gases, so always flush before adding any other cleaner. And while citric acid is natural, it's still an acid, so wear gloves, and avoid breathing in the powder



**THE
GOOD
PLANET**
Loving God's Creation
God saw all that he had made,
and it was very good. Genesis 1:31

CHESTERTON WINDMILL



Chesterton Windmill is one of Warwickshire's most famous landmarks. It has stood on a hilltop overlooking the village of Chesterton for nearly 350 years, and is visible for miles around. Not only is it Grade I listed but is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument. In 1975 it received a Civic Trust Heritage award.

It was built around 1632 – 1633, and believed to have been commissioned by Sir Edward Peyton, who was Lord of the Chesterton Manor House. At this time John Stone, a pupil of Inigo Jones, was in Chesterton designing the new Manor House and he probably helped to design the windmill as well. It was suggested that it might have been built as a 'folly' or observatory, but it has always been a working mill.

It draws many visitors, not just for the building with the six distinctive arches but for the panoramic views across Warwickshire, perfect for walkers, photographers, historians and people from all areas. It is regarded as one of the county's most photogenic and memorable places.

The estate accounts at the Warwickshire County Record Office show that the structure has always been a windmill, making it the earliest tower mill in England to retain any of its working parts. The windmill worked for centuries but eventually fell out of use in 1910 because the winding gear no longer worked. The miller, William Hayes, moved to Harbury tower mill.



LEAMINGTON PEACE FESTIVAL 2026

The 'Peace Festival' will take place on June 13th and 14th in the Pump room gardens between 10.0 am and 5.0 pm.

It is one of the UK's longest running free festivals. It features two music stages, a dance display area, children's tent, workshop tent. Over 120 stalls including charities, activists, spiritual groups, healers, craft and fair traders. There will also be food vendors.





ONE CHURCH TO PENTECOST : Sun 26th April - Sun 24th May 2026

The idea behind this initiative from the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit was to bring together the twelve churches in the area on five consecutive Sundays to worship together as one church, learning more about the Holy Spirit, and also about each other.

The chosen venue was the Bridge House Theatre, on Myton Road, Warwick—big enough to accommodate the nearly 200 people who made the effort to attend, although the narrow rows and fixed theatre seating made organising the serving of Communion slightly problematic!



Bridge House Theatre



Puppet Chorus

Week 1, “Waiting for the Spirit” was led by Revd Richard Wilde, with a sermon by Russell Blackwell (encouragement with the singing provided by a group of amusing ‘Muppet-style’ puppets!); in Week 2 “A Spirit of Unity” was shared by Revds Tina Brooker and Sally Jones. Jill Lloyd led worship on Week 3, while Sheila Brown preached, and Revd Sally Jones presided over Communion. Week 4 “The Spirit & Growth” was led by Sheila Brown, and Trevor Pethick gave the talk. The final session on Week 5 “The Birth of the Church, worship was led by Jill Lloyd, and Revd Dr Iain Ballard presided over Communion and preached the sermon.

Quite a number of children attended the services, and were taken out to enjoy some fun activities of their own, including the creation of a splendid banner

Each week of the five there was an evening service at a different church around the circuit, and churches were encouraged to participate in small groups to rediscover the power and joy of exploring faith in a more informal way.



Singers from the music group

All the services were very enjoyable, and often thought-provoking. It was certainly uplifting to be part of such a large gathering of fellow Christians, to sing hymns led by a large music group (among them Radford Road’s own George H, on drums). After the service we were able to chat to folk from other churches over a cup of tea or coffee, although with such large numbers present it could be hard to make oneself heard - arguably a nice problem to have!



Coffee time

So the experiment is over for the moment - there will be a lot of reflection and discussion to come, no doubt. Meanwhile, we look forward to meeting up on Sundays (until January, anyway!) at our home church of Radford Road

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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 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 66 copies of this Magazine are being sent out.

Please email Jean or Sally by Sun 19th July 2026 if you have any items suitable for publication in the next issue of the newsletter