



**OCTOBER-
NOVEMBER
2026**

LETTER FROM REVD TINA BROOKER

Dear friends,

During the summer, Richard and I went on holiday to Normandy in France. This was mainly to relax, enjoy the French countryside and food and the other was to visit the historic sites of D-Day.

It was many of these images and emotions that I reflected on as I visited the D-Day beaches, cemeteries and museums.

The total fatalities, just on 6th June 1944, from all sides, total somewhere around 10,000+. Most of these were American forces on Omaha beach, where casualties were by far the highest, mainly due to a higher concentration of opposition forces and strong defences.

In particular we visited Point du Hoc – the strategic headland defences overlooking the vast bay, west towards Cherbourg and east, directly upon Omaha Beach. It was a sobering sight, even after some 80 years. The bomb craters that littered the peninsula were immense, perhaps 30-40 feet in diameter and some 25ft deep.

We entered the underground world of one of the foremost gun emplacements. A huge, circular, heavily reinforced concrete bunker, with tiny claustrophobic living quarters and forward facing slit sites for gun emplacement, marked everywhere with holes in the walls where shrapnel had exploded. It was deeply moving, knowing men had fought and died right there. It was an eerie place. A lingering atmosphere of fierce aggression seemed to hang in the air. We were pleased to re-emerge into the warm sunlight and fresh air.

Their sacrifice bought our freedom, and ultimately Europe and the world's freedom from tyranny and oppression, but at what a price.

Personally, I found the Commonwealth Cemetery in Bayeux most moving. Perhaps because of the personal family inscription on each immaculate headstone, the neat rows of white stone stretching out in all directions.

It was a place to stop, pause and reflect. It is notable that the cemetery is right on the ring-road in Bayeux, the same one the troops built to get round the narrow medieval streets with their tanks and heavy artillery back in 1944! Hundreds of cars pass the site daily and encounter the special road surfacing that forces you to slow down...and think. Their sacrifice surrounded us. Lives laid down. Families torn apart. A victory won and land liberated, people freed, with life and liberty restored.

Richard and I chatted and reflected about the sacrifice that Jesus made for each one of us. We can know little of the battle Jesus fought for our liberation, salvation wrought from sin and death that day on his sacrificial cross, when the sky went black and the earth shook.

It was a universal, once and for all liberation, and what of the debt we owe....

Isaac Watts knew what he was writing in 1707, with his powerful hymn: 'When I survey the wondrous cross.'

'Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.'

Revd Tina



DIARY OCTOBER 2026

Thurs 1st Oct 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 2nd Oct 6.30om Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 4th Oct 10.30am Service led by Mr Peter Ashton

Tues 6th Oct 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 8th Oct 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 9th Oct 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sat 10th Oct 9-11am Big Breakfast

Sun 11th Oct 10.30am Service led by Revd Dr Iain Ballard

Tues 13th Oct 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 15th Oct 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 16th Oct 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 18th Oct 10.30am Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Nick Stanyon

Tues 20th Oct 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 22nd Oct 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 23rd Oct 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church

Sun 25th Oct 10.30am Service led by Revd Tina Brooker

Tues 27th Oct 10.30am Bible Study

Thurs 29th Oct 10am-12noon All Are Welcome

Fri 30th Oct 6.30pm Joint Bible Study, Lillington Free Church



DIARY NOVEMBER 2026

Sun 1st Mr Nigel Saxton

Tues 3rd Nov 10.30am Bible Study

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

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

Sun 8th Nov 10.30am Service led by Mr Russell Blackwell

Tues 10th Nov 10.30am Bible Study

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

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

Sat 14th Nov 9-11am Big Breakfast

Sun 15th Nov 10.30am **Service at Dale St.Church**

(no service at Radford Road)

Tues 17th Nov 10.30am Bible Study

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

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

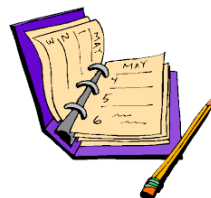
Sun 22nd Nov Service of Holy Communion led by Revd Tina Brooker

Tues 24th Nov 10.30am Bible Study

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

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

Sun 29th Nov 10.30 am **Service at Lillington Free Church**
(no service at Radford Road)





COFFEE ROTA

(PLEASE ARRANGE SWAP IF NECESSARY)



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

Thank you

Sun 4th Oct Jean and Bridget

Sun 11th Oct John and Ruth

Sun 18th Oct Sally and Jean

Sun 25th Oct Margaret and Jeni

Sun 1st Nov Mary and Sally

Sun 8th Nov Bridget and Julia

Sun 15th Nov John and Ruth

Sun 22nd Nov Mary and Margaret

Sun 29th Nov Jean and Jeni



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 new Mission Project (see page 5). Pop the dates in your diary, and come along to enjoy tasty food and good company.

Sat 10TH October

Sat 14th November

9-11am



FAMILY NEWS



We are sad to report the death of Kath R on 31st July 2026. Her funeral was held on 26th August

Please remember in your prayers those who have been bereaved

We think especially of Kath's family and friends

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, Eric, Gill, Hazel, Vi; all those involved with the Night Shelter

May they know of your nearness to them.



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 on 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.



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



Northampton

OUR LAST MISSION PROJECT – LEAMINGTON STREET PASTORS

We are trained volunteers from many Christian Churches in Leamington, seeking to create a more harmonious and safer environment for those out and about on the town's streets at night.

Following the ethos of the other 250 Street Pastor initiatives nationally, we will talk about our faith if questioned but we are not about preaching.

Our prime purpose is to offer non-judgemental caring and support through listening and helping, meeting the needs of all, regardless of background. In delivering this we very much work in partnership with Warwick District Council who have been very supportive.

In practical terms what we do is to patrol in a team of 3 or 4 on Saturday nights (plus some Friday nights when our numbers grow) from 10.00pm to 2.00am (we do have a coffee break!). Most time is spent in the Bedford Street/Warwick Street club/pub area. We have a 2-way Radio that links us to the CCTV control centre and all door staff at every open establishment. We can summon assistance as well as being called ourselves to people needing support. If there is a need and our team is OK with it, we may be out till later.

Typically a night might include:

- Giving out bottles of water, foil blankets and flipflops (if walking in high-heels is proving more hazardous than when the night began!).
- Picking up and disposing of discarded bottles and sweeping up glass (to reduce injury risks).
- Seeing people safely into taxis home and arranging this if necessary.
- Helping with phone calls to re-join their group if someone's mobile has failed them.
- Watching out for the vulnerable and perhaps waiting with them or getting assistance.
- Perhaps, by our presence, reducing tensions that, if unobserved, might develop into aggression and generally greeting people and fostering a happier and calmer atmosphere.

Some of our team have had additional training to act as Response Pastors. They stand ready in case the emergency services or council declare a major incident for which they need Response Pastors to bring emotional support to any who have had a traumatic experience.

Strong financial and practical support has come from The Health & Well Being Group and South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership, The Police, The Police & Crime Commissioner, Leamington Town Centre Forum and from Warwick District Council.





MISSION PROJECT TOTAL 2025-2026

Every year we choose a different organisation to receive the profits from our monthly Big Breakfast (apart from May, when the money is donated to Christian Aid Week). Last year Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) was the chosen project, and we raised the fantastic sum of **£915.99**

After May's Big Breakfast we were able to give **£83.50** to Christian Aid. Thank you to all those who supported Big Breakfast so generously during the year



WHAT DID HE SAY? A look at one of the significant sayings of Jesus

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH (Matthew 5:13)

When you describe yourself, do you ever think of being like salt? Rock salt, table salt, sea salt, pink Himalayan salt? Chemically, they're all simply sodium and chloride ions that bond and form lattice-type cubes.

Practically and historically, salt has been used for flavour, for preservation, as a fertiliser and an antiseptic, as a sign of friendship and hospitality, and even in making covenants.

People that are described as the salt of the earth are known for their goodness, humility, kindness and authenticity. They'll be hardworking and will do anything they can to help anyone they can.

When Jesus told his listeners that they were the salt of the earth, he asked a question that doesn't always make sense to modern ears: "What good is salt if it has lost its flavour?" (*New Living Translation*)

While salt is a stable compound, it can effectively lose its flavour or saltiness if it's contaminated. Similarly, our lives may be contaminated by setback after setback, or by a situation beyond our control that breaks down our capacity to cope, stealthily making us hard-hearted. Contamination could even come in the form of compassion fatigue, where we emotionally withdraw and feel a deep tiredness after a prolonged period of helping others.

Finding the right support, rebuilding our strength, taking rest and learning to be soft-hearted again can help us find new ways of being the salt of the earth.

Some scholars suggest that when Jesus talked about his followers being the salt of the earth, he was explaining their role in the world. One Bible translation puts his words like this "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth" (*The Messenger*)

Elsewhere in the Bible there is a list of such 'God-flavours' – that is, qualities that come from God. It reads: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

It's not always easy to show these qualities, but God has promised to help us if we'll follow him. However we might describe ourselves now, with God's support we can change for the better and be the salt of the earth.

PILGRIMS SET OUT TO MARK 800 YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI



St Francis is regarded as one of the world's most popular saints. He was a 13th Century Italian friar renowned for his commitment to poverty, peace and care for creation. To call attention to the huge impact that the teachings of St Francis have had, influencing millions of people worldwide, Anglican Franciscans embarked on a three-month, 800-mile pilgrimage across the UK. The aim is to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi and carry a message of peace. The pilgrimage celebrates the life and legacy of St Francis, whose commitment and reconciliation continues to inspire Christians around the world.

The 80-day, 800-mile journey began in Alnmouth, in Northumberland on July 17th. Calling at many destinations across the country to London, their final destination being the Friary in Plaistow, Newham.

En route, the participants stayed in churches, homes, and parish halls. They were joined by day pilgrims, and others participating in short sections of the journey.

The pilgrims will arrive in time for the global commemorations marking the death of St Francis, on 2 and 4 October. The death of St Francis is marked with a Transitus Service, which means "crossing over", when the pilgrims will join a service at Christchurch, Blackfriars, in Southwark



Lord, make me an instrument of
thy peace. Where there is
hatred, let me sow love.

~ Francis of Assisi

Wakes Week

One Sunday morning, whilst having coffee following our service, an interesting discussion started about 'Wakes week'. This a short history of these 'holidays.'

Each year, from around the time of the Industrial Revolution to the mid 20th century, factories and mills closed across northern England and the Midlands, for Wakes Week. In Scotland, the annual workers' holiday for city dwellers is known as Trades Fortnight.

The name 'Wakes Week' originated from the 'wake' (from the Old English waecan) – or the Saturday night of prayer for the dead on the date of a church's festival for its saint's day (or inauguration).

Wakes grew from a night of prayer vigil to a more raucous weekend of celebrations, including sports, drinking, and dancing.

As industry spread across the UK in the late 18th and early 19th century, the wake tradition adapted to an annual summer holiday for the workers. The owners of factories, mills, and mines would take the opportunity of their workers being away to undertake necessary maintenance.

Originally, the holiday was unpaid. Each local area designated its own week. Glasgow, for example, has held a Fair Fortnight since the 12th century on around the second half of July. All the factories closed and workers headed off 'doon the watter' to the beaches of resorts like Rothesay on Bute.

In Lancashire, towns took holidays on different weeks between June and September. This enabled work to take place in the county throughout the summer, even though workers would all be able to take a week off.

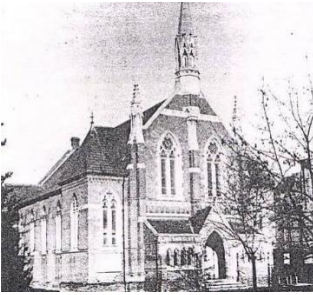
Sadly, however, some experienced a darker side to Wakes Week. As it grew into a traditional annual factory holiday where entire industrial towns shut down for a vacation, its early iterations involved massive influxes of people travelling between towns at a time when urban sanitation was virtually non-existent. In 1832, cholera was spreading uncontrollably through the United Kingdom. Because medical authorities did not yet understand that cholera was waterborne, instead blaming it on bad air, these mass holiday gatherings became major events for spreading the disease. The 1832 cholera epidemic hit over 400 towns and villages across the UK, causing thousands of deaths. Wakes Week and cholera outbreaks were disastrously linked during the 19th-century Industrial Revolution in Britain.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, trips increased from day trips to full weeks away and "Wakes Saving" or "Going-Off" clubs became popular. The saving clubs were a feature of the industrial North until paid holidays became a reality in the 1940s and '50s. It was common for local authorities to allocate a one-week school holiday to coincide with Wakes Week in lieu of holiday time elsewhere in the year, but schools began to discontinue the Wakes Week holiday after the introduction of the National Curriculum and the standardisation of school holidays across England.



PHOTOS PLEASE!!!

CELEBRATING RADFORD ROAD CHURCH



As we move toward the closure of Radford Road and look to the future, it would be good to share photographic memories of the past by displaying photos of Radford Road/Trinity and Spencer Street churches and their activities.

Over the next few weeks, can you have a look for any photos you might have - preferably with dates, and let Margaret, Jean or Sally have them as soon as possible. We will take copies and return the originals



ECO CHURCH -- MAKE USE OF FALLEN LEAVES

How to Make Leaf Mould (Simple Method)

Leaf mould is made using only dry leaves and water, relying mainly on fungi to rot the material

- **Collect and shred:** Gather dry fallen leaves and if possible run a lawnmower over them to chop them into smaller pieces, which helps them rot faster
- **Bag or bin them:** Stuff the shredded leaves into a wire mesh bin or sturdy plastic rubbish bags
- **Add air and water:** If using bags, punch several holes in the sides and bottom with a garden fork for airflow. Ensure the leaves are damp like a wrung-out sponge.
- **Wait:** Store the bags or bin in a shady corner of your garden. Leaf mould takes about 1 to 2 years to turn into crumbly, dark compost





Warwick District
Faiths Forum

20TH ANNIVERSARY

Wellbeing Conference

Saturday 10th October 2026

Dormer Centre, Dormer Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5AA

Key aims of the Conference:

- 1) To raise community awareness of the importance of health and wellbeing.
- 2) To outline the services and support available to the community through presentations and information displays.
- 3) To give community members an opportunity to raise issues and concerns directly with service providers.

Timetable:

09.00 Registration and Refreshments

09.30 Introduction

Jatinder S Birdi, Chairperson WDFF

09.35 Welcome

Fr Stephen Day, St Peter's RC Church

Mindfulness

Srila Devi

Opening Reflection & Address

Cllr Sarah Boad

The Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa

09.45 Community Safety & Threats

Habib Ullah

Counter Terrorism Policing, West Midlands

10.30 The Local Perspective

Hema Nolan

Warwickshire County Council

10.45 BREAK

11.00 Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Jamie-Rae Tanner

Public Health Consultant

Warwickshire County Council

11.30 Your Health, Your Priority

Dr Peter Townsend

Kenilworth Chiropractic Clinic

12.00 Discussion Groups:

West Midlands CTU

Health & Wellbeing Strategy

Your Health, Your Priority

Mindfulness

12.45 Feedback from Discussion Groups, Plenary and Closing Comments

13.00 Vegetarian Indian Lunch & Networking

The Conference is free to attend, however it is necessary to register in advance. To attend please email your contact details to: wdfaitsforum@yahoo.com, or telephone: 07958 589464

ALL HALLOWS' EVE, ALL SAINTS DAY, ALL SOULS DAY

All Hallows' Eve has deep Christian roots. It is the evening of October 31st, serving as holy preparation or anticipation for All Saints' Day (All Hallows' Day). It originated as the evening vigil and first part of Allhallowtide, a three-day Christian season dedicated to remembering the dead, including martyrs, saints, and departed souls, held just before All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2). *Hallow* means a holy person or saint. Early Christian practices included baking soul cakes, ringing church bells for souls in purgatory, and holding light-themed celebrations or graveyard visits.



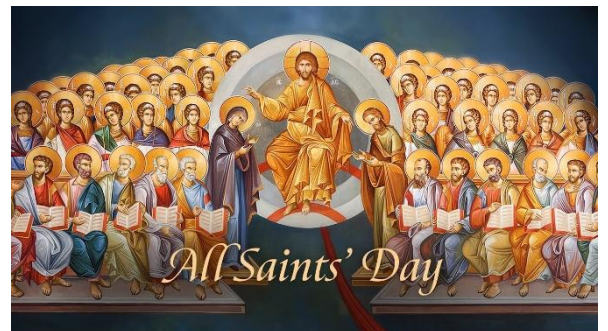
While the religious calendar date is distinctly Christian, many popular folk traditions—such as wearing disguises, carving jack-o'-lanterns, and going door-to-door—absorbed regional autumn and harvest customs over the centuries.



The ancient pagan and Celtic root of Halloween is Samhain (pronounced *sow-win* or *sah-win*), which translates to "summer's end" in Old Irish, which marks the end of the harvest and the start of the new year.

Over the 20th century, the holiday largely transitioned into a secular cultural event focused on costumes and candy rather than religious reflection, though many Christian denominations still observe the original feast days or alternative church events.

All Saints' Day is a Christian festival celebrated on November 1st in Western churches to honour all saints and martyrs, both known and unknown throughout Christian history. It is a tradition since the 4th century. In 609 AD Pope Boniface IV decided to remember all martyrs as the feast of All Holy Martyrs. In 837 AD Pope Gregory IV extended the festival to remember all Saints and changed its name to the Feast of All Saints, also changing the date to November 1st.



All Soul's Day is on November 2nd, (or 3rd if the 2nd is a Sunday). This is an opportunity to remember all Baptised Christians who have died. Traditionally people visited cemeteries to clean graves and leave flowers.



FINDING A NEW CHURCH

We are all going to miss Radford Road so much. Some members of our congregation have only joined recently, others have worshipped here for many decades. But all of us will feel bereft when the building finally closes in January. In preparation for that moment, we have agreed to go as a church body to have “taster” services at Dale Street Methodist Church (Sun 15th November) and Lillington Free Church (Sun 29th November), our local sister churches. Revd Tina will be leading the service at Dale Street, and Revd Nick will accompany us; likewise, Revd Nick will lead the service at Lillington, while Revd Tina will be part of the congregation too.

The aim is to give everyone a chance to experience a Sunday service in each church, and to meet members of both, in the hope that this will help people to feel comfortable if they decide to join either one. We will arrange lifts to Dale Street for those who need it on 15th Nov, and a 16-seater minibus has been arranged for transport up to Lillington on 29th November.

Some folk will already have made a decision about where to go after January, but whether or not that’s the case, we hope that as many as possible will join these services

WELCOME SERVICE AT STRATFORD METHODIST CHURCH

FOR REVD LIAM DACRE-DAVIS, SUN 6TH SEPT 2026

A Circuit Service was held at Stratford on 6th September to welcome their new part-time minister Revd Liam Dacre-Davis and his family.

Revd Dacre-Davis will be working alongside their minister Deacon

Jane Mills, dividing his time between Stratford, Henley and Welford Methodist churches, and as a chaplain at Warwick University.



Several members of Radford Road Church attended the service, and afterwards we enjoyed fellowship at a “bring and share” lunch with people from all around the area



Stratford Methodist Church outside and inside

Julie S reflects on “ALL ARE WELCOME”

All are Welcome

A simple slip of paper
“All are Welcome “ it said
Veronica put it on my table.
She said I might enjoy it
Make some new friends
So I went along as soon as I was able.

Yes, years ago, I was at my Club at the Spa Centre when Veronica gave me the slip. Marjorie and John Carrier welcomed me to the coffee morning. My goodness, Marjorie was full of enthusiasm and ideas.

Each month we tried a new activity. Watercolour painting, craft etc. and I once attempted to give a Keep Fit class that had Bridget in fits of laughter.

I also started a ten question general knowledge quiz each week that is still going strong.

During Covid I started writing poems and several were included in the Church magazine. A booklet was suggested. I said other people might like to contribute and so “Strange Times” was born. I’ve still got my copy.

Although I don’t go every week, “All are Welcome” is still going, and I, for one, will miss it when the Church building closes.

Thank you for the happy times.



Julie leads a keep
fit session

CONGRATULATIONS TO OLIVIA

Many of you will remember Olivia, who with her partner Lizzie worshipped at Radford Road for several years, until work took them down south in 2024

As well as working full-time, (and taking regular turns on the Sunday Powerpoint rota **and** helping out on church work days) Olivia was also studying for a PhD, which she has now successfully completed – a huge achievement. Here is a picture of Olivia after her graduation ceremony looking splendid in her doctoral regalia, with Lizzie by her side



CHURCH CONTACTS

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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 18th November 2026 if you have any items suitable for
publication in the final issue of the newsletter**