

## SUNDAY SERVICES

### 10.30 am THE SUNDAY SERVICE

*Holy Communion - first Sunday of each month*

*(Please refer to Diary on page 8 for details of all Services as arrangements may vary).*

## WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

Monday	5.00 - 6.00pm 6.00 - 7.15pm	Rainbows (5-7 years) at Radford Road Brownies (7-10 years) at Radford Road
Tuesday	2.00pm 7.00 - 8.30pm	Friendship Circle Guides (10-15 years) at Radford Road
Wednesday	11.00am 12.30pm	Coffee Morning Wednesday Lunch alternating with Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship at 1.30 pm.
Thursday	2.00pm	Film Club (monthly)
Friday	6.15 - 7.45pm 6.15 - 7.15pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	Cub Scouts (8-10½ years) Beaver Scouts (6-8 years) Scouts & Explorer Scouts
Saturday	9.00 - 11.00am 10.00am	The Big Breakfast (monthly on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday) Christians Together in Leamington Ramblers (monthly)

Radford Road Church web site: [www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk](http://www.radfordroadchurch.org.uk)

**Radford Road Church**  
**Leamington Spa**  
CV31 1NF

*Magazine*



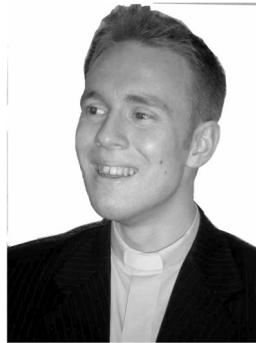
**Christian Aid Week**  
**14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**May 2017**

## THE MINISTER'S LETTER

To the Family of God at Radford Road Church,

I hope you all had a wonderful Easter celebrating the great hope of the Christian faith, and enjoyed precious time with church and family. It feels like Spring has now sprung and the warmer summer months are just around the corner, and now we have an election to look forward to as well, it is as if all our Christmases have come at once! Is that not your immediate reaction? No? Well it wasn't exactly my reaction either!



I could almost hear a collective groan from the nation as I watched Theresa May make the surprising announcement. That is before the start of one and a half months of election campaigning, but let us not forget that as Christians we are to pray for our leaders, 'that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness' (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

Let us also not forget that our ability to vote, and for that vote to count, is a privilege that something like thirty-five per cent of the world's population are denied. It is arguably a freedom our grandparents and great grandparents fought to pass on to us, and it is an honour that we get to have a say on how we feel our nation is being governed, the collective values we believe are important, and who should lead us into the future.

We have a great responsibility when we enter that voting booth, and we should take it seriously, pray about it and vote in accordance with our conscience and values, though as Christians let us remember that our ultimate hope is in the Lord our God. Psalm 146 verse 3 warns us, 'Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save'. For whoever wins the next election, whichever personality or party, our ultimate hope is in the Lord our God to guide and save us.

It's this thought that leads me to rejoice in the truth that our Lord Jesus is not only risen but ascended, and seated on the throne. On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Ascension Day, the global church will celebrate this.

Whatever, happens on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017, we know the one who rules above all. We know the one who is seated at the right hand of the Father Almighty (Acts 2:34-35), Jesus our mediator and great high priest who intercedes for us on our behalf (Hebrews 4:15-16), and who will one day return to judge the living and the dead (Luke 21:27).

We may not know what the future holds for us but we do know the one who holds the future, and we know His love and mercy, so in the coming weeks and months let us trust him and choose to walk with him. In the power of his grace.

James

MINISTER (Methodist)	Rev. Andy Laird <a href="mailto:andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk">andrew.laird@methodist.org.uk</a>
MINISTER (URC)	Rev. James Church <a href="mailto:jamesichurch@hotmail.com">jamesichurch@hotmail.com</a>
ADMINISTRATOR	Margaret Bull
CHURCH TREASURER	Tina Wise
ORGANIST	Margaret Height
MID-WEEK WORSHIP	Jane Grunfeld 02476
WEDNESDAY LUNCH	Veronica Brown
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE	Margaret Height Ruth Eyles
PROPERTY COMMITTEE	Ken Robertson
RAINBOWS	Bridget Halpin
BROWNIES	Bridget Halpin
GUIDES	Rebecca Williams
BEAVER SCOUTS	Matthew Drinkhall
CUB SCOUTS	Janet Doody
SCOUTS	Alec Doody
EXPLORER SCOUTS	Deb Cooper
GROUP SCOUT LEADER	Louise Kalus
MAGAZINE EDITOR AND WEBMASTER	Marjorie Carrier <a href="mailto:carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk">carrier_mj@yahoo.co.uk</a>

## ROTAS

	Welcomer	Coffee	Flowers to give	Arranger
May 7	Sue Darlison	Brenda & Alan Watts	Hazel Hobbs	Rosemary
May 14	Jherell Galang	Janice Dean & Bridget Halpin	Joyce Limmagine	Jean
May 21	Rosemary Moore	Jean Young & Margaret Bull	Tina Wise Debbie & Pat Hill	Margaret
May 28	Ann Blower	Veronica Brown & Jane Grunfeld	Pat Langley & The Richardson family	Kath
June 4	Veronica Brown	Sally Cligg & Jherell Galang	Mavis Moore	Tony
June 11	Julia Morris	John & Ruth Eyles	Brenda Tandy	Margaret

Would the first person on the Coffee Rota please bring 2 pints of milk and the second bring biscuits. Thank you!

We thank all those who have promised flowers for the church and also thank the arrangers for using their time and talents in this way.

### PRAYER LINE

If you have a prayer request call **07594526888** and leave a message on our answer machine. Alternatively you can email prayer requests to **rchurchpray@hotmail.co.uk** or speak with Jane Grunfeld or Hazel Hobbs. Our prayer group at the church will commit to praying for those requests.

**Marjorie Carrier would welcome your contributions and suggestions for the June Magazine by Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup> at the latest, and preferably earlier, please. Email: carrier\_mj@yahoo.co.uk .**

## FAMILY NEWS



We send our love and prayers to all those in need and especially those whose names appear in our prayer book.

**Hazel Hobbs** has recently undergone back surgery and it will take some time before she is fully recovered.

**Margaret Sheldon** is remembered by us all after the tragic loss of her daughter.

**John Farrington** has spent a couple of days in hospital following heavy nose bleeds but is home again now and sends his love to friends at Radford Road.

**Kingsley Pilling** is in hospital because of increased mobility problems and we send our thoughts and prayers to him and to Anne.

We were delighted to welcome **Jean Young**'s daughter, **Alex**, and her family, when they brought **Louis Alexandre** and **Clémence Marie Jean** for baptism. The children were each presented with a candle and a baptismal certificate.

Radford Road Church was the venue for the service on April 15<sup>th</sup> to bless the marriage of **Eri Saika and Oliver Horrocks**, both of whom are members of Emmanuel Church, Leamington. We wish them happiness as they begin married life together.

Thank you to all who have opted to receive the Church magazine by email. We are currently sending 27 copies out electronically. This cuts down on paper, energy and effort. Please contact Marjorie if you would like your magazine sent in this way.

A reminder that offertory contributions can be given to the church by standing order rather than using weekly envelopes. Please see Bridget for details, help or advice.

### A Prayer for our Church Family

Lord, may we live worthy of your call on our lives. As we respond to that call, fulfil every purpose, every faith-filled act of service by your power. May we have hearts that sing for joy and delight greatly in you.

Amen

## OUR COVER PICTURE



There are thousands of refugees like Nejebar and her family who are helped by Christian Aid. Nejebar doesn't have a safe place to call home. She fled Afghanistan with her family after the Taliban threatened to kill her husband, Noor, who was a teacher.

'The last days and weeks in Afghanistan were the hardest,' says Noor. 'When I went to work, my heart was beating harder. I didn't know if my family was going to be alive when I got back.' Nejebar's family is stuck in Greece. The family arrived at the refugee camp in Greece thinking it would be a stay of 10 days but they've been there six months now and there's no end in sight. The only protection they have against the wind and rain is their tent. There's no school for their children. Five-year-old Sudai, their youngest, is ill, but Nejebar and Noor don't know what's wrong with him because they can't communicate with the camp's doctor, who is Greek. Life is unbelievably difficult.

**Please support Christian Aid Week and make life better for millions of people like Nejebar.**

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017

Christian Aid is the biggest single act of Christian witness in Britain. Radford Road Church is appealing for collectors, walkers and sponsors to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

### **House to House Collection**

Our Church is responsible for house-to-house collections on the whole of the Sydenham estate and in some other areas of the town. This is a mammoth task and the more volunteers we have the easier the work becomes. Could you spare an hour or two to go with others, or by yourself, and knock on doors to collect the envelopes? A sign up sheet is in the Church vestibule.

### **Walkers and Sponsors**

Radford Road is organising a sponsored walk around The Jephson Gardens on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. The walkers will meet at church at 9.00am and, after their walk, will return to Church to recover at the Big Breakfast. Please sign up if you would like to walk or sponsor the walkers. The forms are on the board in the Church vestibule.

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY MORNING

What a splendid morning we had! Nearly 30 children arrived bright and early to enjoy a fun packed morning of stories, activities and songs all connected to the Easter story. They re-enacted the ride of Jesus into Jerusalem on the back of the donkey. They shouted 'Hosanna' and waved palm branches; remembered how Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and how bread and wine were shared in the upper room. They heard how Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, and how Jesus was crucified and died. Then everyone rejoiced as the story of the resurrection was told and everyone realised, that Jesus is alive today and we are able to speak with him through prayer.

Later the children made an Easter garden and there was a wide variety of crafts connected with the Easter story. Everyone was able to take their creative work home to remind them of the true meaning of Easter.

***Pictures on the church web site . Use tab 'Activities'.***

*These activity mornings are extremely popular and inspiring and numbers attending continue to grow. Thanks go to Jane for her dedicated work in preparing all the activities and motivating others to help so that children learn about the Christian faith.*

## **THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH (a nativity musical)**

**To be performed in Dale Street Methodist Church 19/20 January 2018  
We need an ALL AGE CAST of 20 minimum**

**THE SECOND TASTER WORKSHOP  
will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
at 7.30pm in the Community Room at Dale Street.  
COME AND FIND OUT WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT!  
EXPERIENCE NOT NECESSARY - BUT ENTHUSIASM IS!**

**Rehearsals will begin in September.  
For further information contact: [jo.parkinson@ntlworld.com](mailto:jo.parkinson@ntlworld.com)**

## THE GLOBAL WAVE OF PRAYER

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd. Justin Welby, has launched a package of resources to support a 10-day 'global wave of prayer' from Ascension Day to Pentecost (25<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June). Over 100,000 people supported the 'Thy Kingdom Come' call to prayer at its inception last year. This year, many more are expected to join the ecumenical and international initiative in which Christians #Pledge2Pray and unite with thousands of others in praying for people to come to faith.



## BIG DAY

Don't forget to book your tickets for the URC's Big Day at Warwick Castle on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May. Main topics for discussion at the Castle's Pageant Field will be '**Come Dine with the URC: Who should the URC sit around the table with and why?**' The speakers will include the URC's General Secretary John Proctor; Neil Thorogood, Principal of Westminster College; Kirsty Mabbott, Church Related Community Work minister at the CRCW project in Bettws, Wales, and Paul Northup, Creative Director of the Greenbelt festival. This is on our doorstep. Why don't you go along?

## METHODIST WORLD CHURCH PRAYERS

This month, in the Methodist Church World News, the prayers focus on Korea, Russia and El Salvador and we are asked to:

- Pray for El Salvador** as the country tries to discern how best to deal with migration. Pray for the Methodist Church in El Salvador as it tries to do this in a way that is reflective of Christian values and God's love for us all.
- Pray for South Korea** during this time of transition and as it continues to work towards justice and peace on the Korean Peninsula.
- Praise God for the growth of the Methodist Church in Russia** in the face of difficult circumstances – and for Jill Baker as she prepares to take up her role as Vice President of the Methodist Conference in June.

## PAT LANGLEY

Pat attended All Saints Sunday School in her early years but then moved to Trinity Church where she helped in the Sunday School. She became a Church Member in 1965 and has been fully involved in the life of the church ever since.

She and her late husband, Howard, became caretakers of the church about 20 years ago and, since Howard's death, Pat has continued to care for our premises. Now Pat feels the time has come to retire and we shall all miss her in this role. We would like to thank Pat for her loyal service over past years, but we will not be saying goodbye as we hope that she will still be serving coffee each Wednesday morning; that she will continue to be a staunch member of the Friendship Circle and a regular member of the Film Club and that she will still be worshipping with us regularly on Wednesdays and Sundays.

We wish her many years of good health and happiness in retirement.

Much thought has been given to how our premises will be cared for now that Pat has retired. It has been decided to appoint a cleaner for two hours per week to perform some of the tasks for which Pat has been responsible. Mr Martin Chambers, who attends Lillington Free Church, has been offered the position and he will commence duties at the beginning of May. Part of Martin's role will be to clean the church and so the Cleaning Rota will no longer be necessary. We would like to thank the small teams of people who have diligently and faithfully given their services to ensure that the church has been kept in good order. Some of these people have served the church in this way over many years and their regular commitment has been very much appreciated.

Now we have a different system in operation, everyone is asked to keep the rooms as clean as possible and always to leave the premises as they would wish to find them ready for the next activity.

## Christian Aid Emergency Appeal

Thank you to all those who donated to the retiring collection for the Christian Aid Emergency Appeal. £156 has been sent from Radford Road Church to help the victims of the famine disaster in South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen.

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEAMINGTON

### CHURCHES TOGETHER RAMBLERS -



Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 9.45am for 10.00am

FROM RADFORD SEMELE

A walk just under 4 miles.

Meet at the far end of the car park at The White Lion, Radford Semele. We will return to the White Lion at the end of the walk for an optional lunch.

Leader: Dave Bishop

#### Forthcoming Event:

### PRAISE IN THE PARK

On Pentecost Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 11.00am  
in The Pump Room Gardens, Leamington Spa.

Service led by the Revd. Jonathan Jee, Minister of St. Paul's Church, Leicester St.

Preacher: James Lawrence who worships at St. Mark's Church in Leamington and works with the Church Pastoral Aid Society.(CPAS) in leadership development.

St Paul's Church organises the annual 'Praise in the Park' event for the benefit of the whole town. Around 1,500 people from many of the churches in the town gather together to worship and pray for Leamington. The event is a great expression of our Christian unity. St. Paul's Church contribute the music, stewarding and technical expertise to make the event a success.

Bring your fold up chairs or a rug and enjoy praising God with other people from local churches. You may also like to bring a picnic to enjoy afterwards.

**For those who are unable to get to the Pump Room Gardens, there will be the usual 10.30am worship at Radford Road Church on Pentecost Sunday.**

As well as coinciding with Pentecost Sunday, Praise in the Park Sunday 2017 is also the end of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer week, in which many of our churches and denominations are participating. This is a national prayer initiative for the ten days between Ascension Day and Pentecost and a lot of details are available on line. (see page 12)



### HOUSE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

each Friday at  
135, Leam Terrace  
at 7.30pm

The House Group would be delighted to welcome others who would like to share in the evening.

Please see James for further details.



### THE NEXT BIG BREAKFAST is on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am

Come along and bring your friends and smell the sizzling bacon as you come through the door to our Big Breakfast.

Proceeds to our Mission Project, The Mission Aviation Fellowship.



### FINANCES

#### Income - Recent Collections

March	£1538.53 (4 weeks)	Tina
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### FILM CLUB

The next Film Club will be on Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm when you can enjoy

#### "High Society"

C.K. Dexter-Haven, a successful popular jazz musician, lives in a mansion near his ex-wife's Tracy Lord's family estate. She is on the verge of marrying a man blander and safer than Dex who tries to win Tracy's heart again. Mike Connor, an undercover tabloid reporter, also falls for Tracy while covering the nuptials for Spy magazine. Tracy must choose between the three men as she discovers that "safe" can mean "deadly dull" when it comes to husbands and life.

**Tea and cakes will be served £2.00 per person.**

## PRAYING TOGETHER IN MAY

The monthly Prayer Diary encourages the Church family to focus prayers on specific people or organisations on a daily basis

1st	Mission Aviation Fellowship	16th	Uniformed Organisations
2nd	Street Pastors	17th	Joyce Hill
3rd	Wed. Lunch & Mid-Week Worship	18th	John Farrington
4th	Friendship Circle	19th	Elders of the Church
5th	Churches Together in Leamington	20th	Valerie
6th	Margaret Sheldon	21st	Bible Study Group
7th	Hazel Hobbs	22nd	Joyce Limage
8th	Kingsley & Anne Pilling	23rd	Jean Innis
9th	Hilda & Ken Robertson	24th	Revd. James Church
10th	Tina	25th	Film Club
11th	Night Shelter volunteers	26th	Maureen Hillman
12th	Andi in Albania	27th	Jessie Lawson
13th	Big Breakfast	28th	Clarice Thompson
14th	Christian Aid Week	29th	Mary Coles
15th	Revd. Andy Laird	30th	Gill & Derek Hubbard
		31st	Wendy

You are invited to take a pebble from the basket on the Table of Remembrance, sit or stand quietly and concentrate on your particular concern. Then hold or stroke your pebble – feel your hurt, worry, loneliness, pain, guilt, unhappiness or anxiety flowing into your stone. Feel it warm in your hand. If you are praying for someone else, feel your love and compassion flowing into your pebble.

When you are ready, leave your pebble at the cross of Jesus. Leave it with your concerns, so that Jesus can deal with it. Then go – knowing that Jesus loves and cares about you. There is also a Book of Prayer. Any situation entered in the book will be prayed for at Friday Bible Study and included in the monthly Prayer Diary.

## ONE SOLITARY LIFE

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While he was dying his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth – his coat. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the compassion of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is a centrepiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

*This essay was adapted from a sermon by Dr James Allan Francis in "The Real Jesus and Other Sermons" © 1926 by the Judson Press of Philadelphia (pp 123-124 titled "Arise Sir Knight!")*

## PEREGRINE FALCONS NESTING ON TOWN HALL

Did you know that two peregrine falcons are two nesting at the top of the tower on the Town Hall?

Keen bird watchers have been able to monitor their progress over the last month because Warwick District Council, in conjunction with the Wild Life Trust, has fitted a webcam. To view the live pictures go to [www.warwickdc.gov.uk](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk) and follow the links. The birds have taken turns at sitting on the four eggs. The incubation period is about 30 days and when the chicks hatch the parent birds will be kept busy flying in and out of the tower with tasty morsels for their hungry brood. The young birds are expected to start to fly after 42 days and the parents will then teach them to hunt.

## MAY DIARY 2017

Tues	2	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Chris & Margaret from The Night Shelter
Wed	3	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship
Fri	5	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service led by the Revd. Andy Laird</b>
Tues	9	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Mrs Margaret Weir
Wed	10	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by a talk by Bridget Halpin about her experiences as a Street Pastor
Fri	12	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
Sat	13	9.00am	Christian Aid Walkers set off from church
		9.00am	Big Breakfast
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service with Holy Communion led by the Revd. James Church</b>
Tues	16	2.00pm	Friendship Circle - Mr George Jones
Wed	17	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship
Fri	19	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service led by the Revd. David Greenwood</b>
Tues	23	2.00pm	Friendship Circle: Members Afternoon: Letter "Q"
Wed	24	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Wednesday Lunch followed by Songs of Praise video about Mother Teresa presented by Ann Widdecombe
Thurs	25	2.00pm	Film Club "High Society"
Fri	26	7.30pm	House Group at 135, Leam Terrace
<b>Sun</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>The Sunday Service led by the Revd. James Church</b>
Tues	30	2.00pm	No meeting of the Friendship Circle
Wed	31	11.00am	Coffee Morning
		12.30pm	Lunch followed by Mid-Week Worship

The Induction Service of Mr George Jones as Elder in Local Leadership at Abbey Hill United Reformed Church will take place on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 2.30pm. Everyone welcome.

## KNITTED BIBLE STORIES EXHIBITION

April 4<sup>th</sup> - April 8<sup>th</sup>

What a wonderful exhibition this was! We all marvelled at the skill, perseverance and dedication shown in the making of these wonderful scenes from the Bible and how the stories were so beautifully and skilfully portrayed in the knitting of the characters.

There were 26 scenes in all, starting from the story of the Creation and progressing through the Old Testament with stories of the history of the Israelites. Everyone was fascinated by the creatures going two by two into the ark and turtles, ladybirds, pigs and zebras were admired in this Noah's Ark menagerie. The observant visitors noticed the dove holding a leaf in its mouth after it had spotted land! The stories from the New Testament showed the Nativity, Jesus' baptism, miracles of healing and parables of the lost sheep and the sower, before concluding with the Easter story.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Radford Road and Dale Street visited and we had over 100 children from local schools who all enjoyed seeing the exhibition and hearing the Biblical stories explained to them. Several children had a good knowledge of the stories whilst, for others, it was a new experience. During a discussion with the children about the names of the characters in the stories, and realising that some of his friends had been given Biblical names such as Daniel, Peter, James and Andrew, one child asked if anyone in the Bible had the same name as he did. He said his name was Riley! No adult could recall Riley featuring in a Biblical story though one Minister did suggest that it might have been the name of the Prodigal Son who 'lived the life of Riley' before returning to his father's house!

One child commented, very logically, that really the angels did not need a ladder to move between heaven and earth in Jacob's dream because they had wings and could fly!

Our adult visitors were each given a little handbook with an explanation of the background of each scene which many found extremely helpful.

The exhibition brought the Bible to life through the wonderful knitted scenes and has been a huge success. Many thanks to Jenny and David for sharing their talents with so many Leamington people and for allowing Radford Road Church to be the very first church to host these fantastic scenes.

£420.18 was donated at the Exhibition and this is to be shared between the Mission Aviation Fellowship and our own church.

**Andrew Cligg kindly photographed all the exhibits and they can be seen, with this report, on the church website under the Activities tab.**