As we commemorate 75 years of peace building we’ve been collecting stories of reconciliation. Some stories are just a paragraph while others have been given to us in detail and we hope you find them interesting. Below is a reflection of a visit to York by Hannah Prawitz (Intern 2014/2015).

“In April 2012, I wandered through York in northern England. St. Martin’s Parish York became a CCN partner, part of the Network in which St. Mary’s Parish is also involved. Seventy years after the disastrous bombing attacks on Germany and England, in which Lübeck, York and other cities were heavily damaged, I was invited – as a representative of St. Mary’s Parish Lübeck – to take part in the presentation of the Cross of Nails. I had the opportunity to offer a greeting, and share our assurances that peace, forgiveness and reconciliation are on-going tasks for the future.

After the service we wandered through the streets of the beautiful old city of York. It was raining cats and dogs. After a while, an elderly woman came to me and asked me hesitantly “Are you the German person from Lübeck?” I could see the tears in her eyes. “My father was a bomber pilot in WW2, and be bombed Lübeck.” Now, she cried and could barely continue; “I am so sorry!” A brief embrace and she walked quickly away. In the pouring rain of York, this brave woman asked the people of Lübeck for forgiveness, in her very own way.” Hanna Prawitz

WHAT’S ON IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2016

Monday 11th January - 7pm:  Joint Christian/Muslim evening in the Chapter House.
Wednesday 13th January - 7pm: Opening event of ‘Germany’s Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context’ in St Michael’s Gallery
Sunday 17th January - 12.30pm: Cathedral plans and budgets 2016 - presentation meeting.
Sunday 24th January - 12 noon: Farewell Lunch for Canon Stephen and Angela Fielding.
Monday 18th to Friday 29th January - ‘Germany’s Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context’
Saturday 30th January - 1pm-5pm: Peace Circle for the Women of Coventry (Saint Michael’s House)
Saturday 30th January - 6pm: ‘Discovering the Classics’ with Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra - a concert made up of works included on GCSE and A Level curricula, aimed primarily at students but of universal appeal.
Thursday 4th February - 7.30pm: The Sixteen - Handel, Dixit Dominus.
Sunday 7th February - Foodbank Sunday
Wednesday 10th February - Ash Wednesday Liturgy at 12noon (West Screen) and 7.30pm.
Friday 12th February - 5.30pm: A celebration of the life of Jimmy Hill.

Please send items for inclusion in the next edition of Cathedral Matters by end of TUESDAY 12th January 2016.
Tel: 02476 521200 or email: cathedral.matters@coventrycathedral.org.uk
Website address: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

CATHEDRAL MATTERS

A MESSAGE FROM THE CANON PASTOR

Dear Friends

“One volunteer is worth ten conscripts” was a favourite saying of my father’s, usually when he was trying to persuade me to OFFER to do something that I would be required to do anyway – and I’m afraid that sometimes volunteering here may have a similar feel. So much that we take for granted depends on a silent army of volunteers, without whom we quite simply could not function. Even if we don’t say so nearly often enough please, be assured that you really are valued – and I hope today’s Volunteer Evensong will help you to feel appreciated. It would be lovely to be in regular contact with more of you, whether through the weekly newsletter or face to face at Volunteer Mondays: though you may feel they are aimed mainly at tourism volunteers, that’s really not so. Please be assured that if you give of your time to the Cathedral in any way YOU are a volunteer – and we can’t do without you. Thank you for all you do.

Love and blessings, Kathryn

PS If you don’t volunteer yet, why not consider it? We’d love to have you and it can help to make the Cathedral feel more like home.

The Pilgrim Course

The Pilgrim course resumes this Tuesday at 7pm in the Provost’s Vestry (entrance via Song School or Chapter House entrances). The term’s unit is The Creed, so will be specially interesting for anyone considering confirmation – but a great opportunity for anyone to engage with this key text in greater depth. Each evening includes some Scriptural reflection, discussion and sharing of stories, and is suitable for you wherever you are in your Christian journey. Speak to Canon Kathryn for more details or phone her on 02476521230.
Peace Circles for the Women of Coventry
St Michael’s House is partnering with Creators of Peace, a programme of the organisation Initiatives of Change, to offer peace circles for women in Coventry. These circles will be a training in discovering new tools for enhancing our own inner peace and exploring new skills to enable us to become effective creators of peace in the world. Women can play a significant role in creating a stable society at home and abroad, so we hope you will partner with us on this journey of discovery. The next opportunity is Saturday 30th January from 1pm-5pm. If you are interested in joining the peace circles, please email smh@coventrycathedral.org.uk. Haley Jones, Reconciliation Ministry Team

Easter is coming (and it’s early this year)!
Last Easter I was very struck by the fact that, apart from the Paschal candle, there was absolutely nothing in the Cathedral to help visitors grasp that this was an important season for Christians, no way for them to learn anything about the events that are at the heart of our faith.

As a result, with encouragement from the Cathedral Liturgical Committee, we are going to have an Easter Garden. So…artists, craftspeople, designers, jobbing builders, gardeners – your Cathedral needs you.

PLEASE get in touch if you would like to be part of making something beautiful this Easter. Thank you. Canon Kathryn

News from the Friends of Coventry Cathedral
Pick up your January newsletter
Copies of the Friends January e bulletin are available free on the Community Table today for those without Internet access. Read the preview of our ambitious programme of events, visits and lectures for 2016.
Andrew Paine, Chairman of the Friends

Leaving Gift for Canon Stephen Fielding
The Churchwardens invite you to join us in signing a card for Stephen and Angela and in contributing to a farewell gift; please visit the Community Table at the end of the service.
Godfrey Armitage, Churchwarden

Wanted - Unemployed people!
Are you unemployed? Do you have a friend or neighbour who is unemployed? Bardsley Work Club offers expert help with finding a job from our work club manager Ros Johnson, or if you aren’t ready for work at present you are welcome for a cuppa and a chat. You will find volunteers from the Cathedral congregation ready to welcome you at Bardsley House, next to the Cathedral.

Canon Kathryn

Today at 4pm
Join us tonight for a special Choral Evensong to give thanks for the work of our Volunteers and Cathedral Parish Partners. This service will be followed by light refreshments in the Lecture Hall.
Canon Kathryn

Christian/Muslim joint evening
Monday 11th January at 7pm in the Chapter House
With “religion” rarely out of our news, Coventry’s Cathedral and Eagle St Mosque are hosting a joint-event exploring what the true hearts of our two faiths really are, and what our religious texts actually teach.
The Cathedral’s Dean John Witcombe, and the Mosque’s Imam Usman Qureshi, will each open with a short talk about their faith. We will then have an extended time for Q&A, so we hope you will partner with us on the journey of discovery. The next opportunity is Saturday 30th January from 1pm-5pm. If you are interested in joining the peace circles, please email smh@coventrycathedral.org.uk. Haley Jones, Reconciliation Ministry Team

Cathedral Walkers
Wednesday 20th January
Details of our next walk (and all-important lunch!) are on the Community Table. Please let me know by close Sunday 17th January if you are coming. Dave Goodall, 024 7646 1946

Quiet Day: Encountering God’s Love
We are leading a quiet day at Coventry Prayer House Day Retreat Centre (5 Lychgate Cottages) on Saturday 16th February from 10am to 4pm. Give yourself time and space to encounter God’s love through meditation and contemplative prayer with scripture. More details on the Community Table and information about other events at the Prayer House. To book contact: coventryprayerhouse@gmail.com or 07928835133. John and Margaret Lloyd

Germany’s Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context’ Exhibition Opening Evening
13th January at 7pm
St Michael’s Gallery
‘Germany’s Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context’ is an outreach project led by Professor Stuart Taberner from the German Department at the University of Leeds, with the South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation and the National Holocaust Centre and Museum.
The exhibition explores Germany’s response to the Holocaust since 1945 and draws parallels to other global contexts. It explores how nations and individuals confront traumatic histories, asking why and how we remember.
On Wednesday 13th January at 7pm, Professor Taberner will present a tour of the exhibition and answer questions. The exhibition will be on display at from 13th January until 1st February. Anita Duda (RMT Intern)

Cathedral Plans and Budgets 2016
Update for the Community
Sunday 17th January 12.30pm
All are welcome to join the Dean and Canons for an update on the Cathedral’s budgets and plans for 2016. The one-hour meeting will begin at 12.30pm and will be held in the Chapel of Unity.
Angie Jones

The Sixteen return to Coventry - Thursday 4th February 2016 at 7.30pm
The Sixteen choir and orchestra devote an entire evening to the glorious music of Handel, including his virtuoso Dixit Dominus.
Tickets: £30 - £15 National Box Office: 01904 651485 / www.ncem.co.uk. Local Box Office: Cathedral shop 024 7652 1210. Rachael Kelly

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