Building a Cathedral
Monday 15th February at 11am
Sign up today on the Community Table to book a seat for the showing of the newly digitised film ‘Construction of Coventry Cathedral - the Sacrifice and the Resurrection’, made by Laing the Builders in 1962. This first Friends Meeting of the new year is tomorrow at 11am in the Brandt Suite, St Michael’s House, with coffee/tea from 10.30am.

The 40 minute sponsored documentary film from our archives shows the construction of the new cathedral, looking at the design and construction works, the completed building, and includes excerpts from the service of consecration.

The film begins by showing the ruins of the old cathedral and describing the competition, won by Basil Spence, to design the new building. The first stages of construction in March 1955 are shown, and the completion of the floor of the new nave before the Queen lays the foundation stone.

Jacob Epstein’s statue, “St. Michael’s victory over the Devil” is placed on an exterior wall and unveiled by Lady Epstein. Finally, the spire is placed in position on the roof by an RAF helicopter and Sir John Laing is shown inspecting the completed Cathedral.

Andrew Paine, Chairman of the Friends of Coventry Cathedral

WHAT’S ON IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2016

Monday 15th February -
11am: Friends event ‘Building a Cathedral’

Tuesday 16th February –
2.30pm: ‘Radical Welcome’ course begins.

Monday 22nd February at 7pm –
Reconciliation Ministry Lenten Lecture: - ‘The Problem of Sacred Violence’.

Friday 26th February 8pm-11pm -
Contra in the Cathedral! - part of Inter-Varsity Folk Dance Festival 2016 (for tickets visit www.warwickfolk.co.uk/ivfdf).

Tuesday 1st March at 7pm: Reconciliation Ministry Lenten Lecture: - ‘Dramas of Origin: the notion of ‘Founding Murder’”.

Thursday 3rd March at 2.30pm: Radical Welcome continues (Lecture Hall).

Tuesday 8th March at 7pm: Reconciliation Ministry Lenten Lecture: - ‘Violence, the archaic Sacred and Judaeo-Christian Revelation’.

Thursday 10th March at 2.30pm: Radical Welcome continues (Lecture Hall)

Thursday 10th March 6.30pm for 7pm -
‘What lies beneath’?…. The archaeological discoveries in the Ruins during the engineering project last summer.

Saturday 12th March 10am-2pm:
Passiontide quiet morning – a space for reflection.

Please send items for inclusion in the next edition of Cathedral Matters by end of TUESDAY 16th February 2016.
Tel: 02476 521200 or email: cathedral.matters@coventrycathedral.org.uk
Website address: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

A MESSAGE FROM THE CANON PASTOR

Dear Friends

Welcome! It’s a greeting you probably take for granted. The ”Special welcome” that appears in due season as a cover for our service books may well have been dulled by familiarity too, though I certainly got very excited when it went viral last autumn, and people across the world wrote asking to borrow it. But, of course it raised the bar so high for all of here week by week. Welcoming everyone as if they are Christ sounds great, till you try to do it. Then people are messy, or loud or a wee bit peculiar, and the warm smile becomes more chilly and the mood changes from "How can we help" to "We hope you won’t be a nuisance". We all do it sometimes...but we know we don’t want to.

So this Lent we are exploring RADICAL welcome, through our own experiences of belonging and feeling excluded, focusing on how we can more fully reflect the wonder of God’s unconditional welcome for each one of us to everyone we encounter. Do join us on our Lent course to take this further, and meanwhile remember to smile and speak to that person you don’t yet know. Expect to meet Christ in them

Love and blessings
Canon Kathryn

The Dean and Canons this week

This Sunday morning Canon David is preaching at Mappleborough Green, Sacha is at Preston Baget and Claverdon, and Canon Sarah is at St Barbara’s, Earlsdon. Please hold them in your prayers.
Cathedral Community Notices

Women’s World Day of Prayer
The annual ecumenical Women’s World Day of Prayer Service is taking place at the Methodist Central Hall on Friday 4th March at 11am. The service has been compiled by a group of ladies from Cuba this year. Please speak to Sandra Brownbridge or email: sandra.brownbridge2@gmail.com for further information.

Saturday 12th March 10am – 2pm
Passiontide Quiet Day
All are welcome to join me for a reflective walk through the events of the first Holy Week using “Experience Easter” stations. Canon Kathryn

“What lies beneath?….. The Archaeological Discoveries in the Ruins Summer 2015
Thursday 10th March 6.30pm for 7pm
Join us for this fascinating lecture by George Demidowicz FSA, formerly City Archaeologist, who will share with us the discoveries made last summer when engineering works enabled us to lift the flagstones in the Ruins and discover what lies beneath.

There will also be a presentation from Kelley Godfrey Armitage, Chairman, Coventry Diocesan Care Champions?

Peace begins at home – our reconciliation team are encouraging different generations to talk more
With the UK experiencing one of the highest rates of family breakdown in the Western world, the Reconciliation Ministry Team at Coventry Cathedral is encouraging people from different generations to come together for a weekend workshop to look at how to improve communications.

We believe that this will help to create an atmosphere of dialogue, honest conversation and problem-solving. The two day workshop, which will be held in Saint Michael’s House, will enable older and younger generations to express their concerns to each other in constructive and creative ways and arrive at consensus on how to deal with them.

Coventry Diocese Eco Church launch
23 February 8pm at St Peter’s Wellesbourne
I invite you to join us to for this event introducing Eco Church (http://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/) from 8pm–9.30pm (refreshments from 7.30pm) to hear how churches can join this programme, which was launched by the Christian conservation group A Rocha last month. Following several short presentations, there will be time for discussion, networking and registering of interest. Following our Reconciling a Wounded Planet conference last September, how might we at Coventry Cathedral respond to the challenge of caring better for God’s world, a mandate given to all Christians, not just activists or Creation Care Champions?

Godfrey Armitage, Chairman, Coventry Diocesan Environment Group.

News from the Reconciliation Ministry Team

Our Easter Garden
This year we are having an Easter Garden located on the Chapel of Unity steps. There are many problems to discuss and overcome but some decisions have been made. Because the Garden will be on show for 50 days we cannot have lots of flowers. I can hear you say "No daffodils!" we all love them and they are so cheap but they don’t have a place in our Easter Garden this year.

We have decided (this is not written in stone), that we will have a typical Eastern Mediterranean Garden and this is where we are asking for your help. The budget is zero, so we are asking to borrow small trees (olive, eucalyptus, fig, jacaranda) and potted plants that live in the climatic region of the Holy Land. Do you know of any garden centres that would lend us shrubs like yukkas, rosemary, lavender, hibiscus and cacti would be lovely and Mike Stansbie has offered us the loan of some.

As the Garden Tomb will be the focus we are keeping the planting fairly neutral in view of this would like to borrow driftwood, stones, shells and any other interesting items. We have decided (this is not written in stone), that we will have a typical Eastern Mediterranean Garden and this is where we are asking for your help. The budget is zero, so we are asking to borrow small trees (olive, eucalyptus, fig, jacaranda) and potted plants that live in the climatic region of the Holy Land. Do you know of any garden centres that would lend us shrubs like yukkas, rosemary, lavender, hibiscus and cacti would be lovely and Mike Stansbie has offered us the loan of some.

As the Garden Tomb will be the focus we are keeping the planting fairly neutral in view of this would like to borrow driftwood, stones, shells and any other interesting items. We shall be around before and after the morning service, 14th February and would be pleased to hear of any offers of help or comments. You can always collar Canon Kathryn but she is usually so busy so please feel that you can contact me by phone or email (pamgoodwin54@hotmail.com). Pam Goodwin.

From the Community of the Cross of Nails archive
Reflections from Canon David’s trip to Bezuidenhout
During 2015, several cities in different parts of continental Europe are commemorating the impact of Allied bombing seventy years on. One such is the Bezuidenhout area of The Hague in the Netherlands. Under German occupation during World War II, Bezuidenhout was bombed by mistake in a bombing raid by the Royal Air Force on March 3rd 1945. Destruction was widespread and hundreds of civilians were killed.

In 1995, the churches from the Bezuidenhout received a Cross of Nails which, during the commemoration of the bombing each year, is transferred between the Protestant parish of Christ Triumfatorkerk and the Roman Catholic parish of The Holy Epiphany. I had the honour of representing the Cathedral at last year’s commemoration, which began with an ecumenical service in Christ Triumfatorkerk followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the monument of Juliana of Stolberg.

It was very moving to be part of the weekend commemoration and to have the opportunity to highlight what the Cross of Nails stands for in a message from Coventry, the city of peace and reconciliation, to The Hague, the city of peace and justice. Canon David