Monday 21st December 
- 6pm: ‘Service on the Longest Night’

Wednesday 23rd December 
- 6pm: Kerry Beaumont plays Messiaen’s ‘La Nativité du Seigneur’.

Thursday 24th December 
- 3pm: ‘Journey to Bethlehem’
- 7pm: ‘Form of a Servant’

Thursday 24th December 
- 11pm: Midnight Christmas Eucharist (at Holy Trinity)

Friday 25th December 
- 10.30am: Christmas Eucharist

Sunday 3rd January 
- Foodbank Sunday

Monday 4th January 
- 6pm: Remember Our Child Service

Saturday 9th January 
- 1pm-5pm: Peace Circle for the Women of Coventry (Saint Michael’s House)

Sunday 10th January 
- 4pm: 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.

Monday 11th January 
- 7pm: Joint Christian/Muslim joint 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 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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CANON PASTOR

Dear Friends

It’s been a long week here, a mix of good and bad, from some really wonderful school events filling the place with joy and hope, to the sheer inconvenience of flooding loos and decommissioned kitchens to moments of quieter sadness or delight along the way.

And now we’re almost at The Birthday, with all that that entails for us as a worshipping community, whether we come bearing grief and struggle on the longest night, or full of excitement as we journey to Bethlehem in the hubbub of Christmas Eve. The point is that here, – as at the stable. – there is room for everyone – and for all our hopes, fears and feelings too. So – we look forward to travelling with you to the manger and beyond – and wish you every blessing this Christmas time.

With the love and good wishes of all your clergy
Christmas week early evening services
During the Christmas period (Monday 28th December to Friday 2nd January), the regular early evening services will begin at 4pm.

Canon David

Advent Prayers in the Chapel of Unity
The Chapel of Unity will be hosting Advent Prayers for Christian Aid throughout the season, every Monday at 10am - a short candle lighting liturgy, which will then be left in the Chapel for anyone to use in their own time.

In addition we have the Christian Aid display material from the Greenbelt Festival. The display celebrates 70 years of Christian Aid, taking us back through old posters and campaigns and is a great opportunity to give thanks and look to the future.

Please join me on Monday 21st December and at 8am on Wednesday 23rd December when the Wednesday Morning Group will light the Christmas candle! Or feel free to visit in your own time. Craig Muir

Flowers at Christmas
If you would like to see some flowers in the Cathedral for Christmas there will be a little flowery jug on the Community Table on 20th December. All donations will be gratefully received. Many thanks. David East

"Service for the Longest Night"
Monday 21st December 6pm
If you are wrestling with events in life that make the parties and joviality of the festive season hard to bear, you’re welcome to join us at the Cathedral at 6pm on Monday December 21st for a special ‘Service for the Longest Night’. Designed to provide sacred space for people living through dark times, the service will include prayers, readings and music which acknowledge that God’s presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle. For those who would like to, there will be the opportunity to light candles and/or receive communion. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome. Canon David

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, and want to stress that any and all questions are welcome. For more information, contact: matt.robinson@coventrycathedral.org.uk.

Matt Robinson (RMT Intern)

Emergency contact during the Cathedral Office Christmas closure
If you need a priest urgently while the office is closed, please phone 07985 234901 to alert the Duty Canon.

Cathedral Prayer Circle
In an emergency, a group of us are ready to pray for you and those for whom you are concerned. Contact Meg Bowen on 01926 856928 – brief details would guide our prayers for God’s grace and healing. Meg Bowen

As we commemorate 75 years of peace building we’ve been collecting stories of reconciliation which have either been inspired by the Coventry story or from our work directly; some stories are recent, others from our history which you may have heard about and, perhaps, forgotten. For those members of our Cathedral community who are not online, we will be distributing stories via Cathedral Matters. Some stories are just a paragraph while others have been given to us in detail. We hope you find them interesting.

Johanna Falk [Ecumenical Community of the Cross of Nails]

Story from the prison in Wurzburg
The wandering Cross of Nails in Wurzburg was in the penal facility between the 16th of March 2003 and the 16th of March 2004. The presentation of the wandering Cross of Nails was the first one in the world and Canon Paul Oestreicher and the Bavarian minister of justice joined the presentation. This changed the connection between the Ecumenical Community of the Cross of Nails and the city in relation to this difficult place fundamentally.

I have worked as a volunteer and “Botschafterin der Versöhnung” [ambassador of reconciliation] in the prison since 1998. In 2004 I was able to visit the Centre of the Community of the Cross of Nails “Rainsbrook Training Centre” near Coventry. Unfortunately, we don’t have contact anymore. Maybe this would be a reason to renew the relationship. In all these years, also when the Cross wandered, we worked on issues like peace and rehabilitation together with the pastoral care of the prison. The message of reconciliation from Coventry and the Cross of Nails were always the focal point in these conversations and our services. “Mit meinem Gott überspringe ich Mauern” [with my God I can scale a wall] (psalm 18,30 German; psalm 18,29 English). How wonderful it would be to scale the walls in the heads and hearts of the delinquents.

Please don’t laugh but…EASTER IS COMING (and it’s early next 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, craftspersons, 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
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 a 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 the journey of discovery. We are offering circles on Saturday 9th January and Saturday 30th January from 1pm - 5pm. If you are interested in joining one or both of the peace circles, please email smh@coventrycathedral.org.uk. Haley Jones, Reconciliation Ministry Team

Job Opportunity
Project Officer Community of the Cross of Nails
17.5 hours a week, £11,000 per annum
We are seeking to appoint a Project Officer who will support the Canon for Reconciliation Ministry in the development, maintenance and promotion of the Community of the Cross of Nails.

You will need to be an excellent communicator with first class presentation and engagement skills. Flexibility and willingness to travel are key to this position. This is an extremely important rôle within the ministry, worship and community life of the Cathedral. If you think you fit the bill for this demanding, yet rewarding rôle and would like a job pack then please email or phone Louise Nicholls.
Louise.nicholls@coventycathedral.org.uk
02476 521200

80th Birthday Celebrations
Barbara Mobbs will be celebrating her 80th birthday on Saturday 16th January 2016 at 12 noon with the Litany, Communion and organ music followed by wine and nibbles. If you would like to come please sign the list on the Community Table. No presents please but donations welcome, to be divided between Myton Hospice and the Cathedral.
Barbara Mobbs

Cathedral Walkers, Friday 1st January
Weather permitting, we will again have a shorter walk than usual on New Year’s Day. We’ll park at The Elms (Harvester) on Birmingham Rd, Allesley, leaving at the later time of 10.30am to walk round Allesley Park. We’ll return to The Elms for lunch at around 12.00 noon, you’re welcome to join us even if you don’t come on the walk! Please let me know if you are coming to walk, for lunch, or both by close on Sunday 27th, as that allows time to finalise the arrangements with The Elms.
Dave Goodall; 024 7646 1946; dagoodall@hotmail.co.uk

The opportunity to purchase gifts made in Palestine
For anyone who still has shopping to do, there will be a stall of Palestinian goods in Coventry Cathedral on Sunday 20th December after morning service and the 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight and on Thursday 24th December at the 3pm ‘Journey to Bethlehem’ and the 7pm ‘Form of a Servant’. Ann Farr
**Coventry Winter Night Shelter update - a project to celebrate!**

Last Friday it was Hairy Bikers’ sausage casserole on the menu when we fed 17 people at St Oswals, Tile Hill. The Cathedral team offers condolences to Father Nick whose mother died suddenly last week.

We greatly appreciate the CWNS co-ordinator Nobby Clarke who, as well as coordinating seven church venues and about 300 volunteers, has involved the Sikh community in providing meals on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays and the Tesco’s management team who are providing and cooking food on Mondays.

Below is an extract from Nobby’s recent update about support for the homeless project from a local school where the head, many of the staff and nearly all the pupils are Moslem. (Gill Brooke and I taught ESOL here for many years so we are particularly glad to celebrate John Gulson school’s involvement).

“A special mention though must go out to the children of John Gulson Primary School, who raised more than £500 and came along to buy loads of camp beds and sleeping bags (pictured above). I was so impressed with their level of understanding and will to want to make a positive difference……. well done to the staff there too.”

Please pray for the CWNS project and plans for future provision for the homeless, particularly vulnerable young people in Coventry. *Margaret Lloyd*

**A quiet day at the monastery**

Do you feel the need for “time out” to think, relax, meditate, pray? Time to find yourself again? Are you just curious to try out an ancient spirituality?

I am organising a quiet day at Turvey Abbey on Saturday 23rd January 2016, (departure at 8am from Bablake School car park return 6pm or flexible if you use your own transport). Turvey Abbey is an abbey located in the village of Turvey in the English county of Bedfordshire. Historically, Turvey Abbey was a country house and family home. It now belongs to the ‘Priory of Our Lady of Peace’ a Benedictine order of nuns and The ‘Monastery of Christ our Saviour’, a Benedictine order of monks.

We will start the day just before 10am with a short introduction from me and then the day is yours to spend in the retreat house, the extensive gardens, chapels, library, exploring the area or walking in silence. You are welcome to attend the Eucharist/Mass and other services if you wish. We will share lunch together (not included and not silent) and return to silence after lunch. The cost for the day is £15. If you are interested, let me know by signing the sheet on the Community Table by Sunday 3rd January at the latest. For pictures: www.turveyabbey.org.uk. Thank you, *Sacha Slavic*
As part of the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Coventry blitz the two iconic paintings created by John Piper in the days following the bombing have been reunited and are on display in the Herbert Art Gallery from the 10th November onwards.

To mark this unique event, we are working in partnership with the Goldmark Gallery to produce limited edition prints of both paintings to raise much needed funds.

In his role as a war artist, John Piper began painting both pictures in the days following the bombing; in fact, fires were still burning. The paintings tell of a specific point in time when everything was destroyed, but the vibrant colours used speak of hope from that destruction, which is what we have achieved through our work in peace and reconciliation. The two paintings have not been seen together since the 1940s and are just stunning.

John Piper continued his involvement with Coventry by designing the breathtaking Baptistry window, our vestments and kneelers.

The prints, of which there are limited editions of 250, will be on sale directly from the Goldmark Gallery (www.goldmarkart.com), for £495 each or £875 as a pair. The income from the sale of the limited edition prints will raise up to £100,000 for the Cathedral which will make a significant impact on our finances. Frames are not included but Goldmark are happy to discuss options with you.

For more information pick up a prospectus from the Community Table, visit Goldmark Gallery’s website at www.goldmarkart.com, speak to the Visitor Service team or Christine Doyle.

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 virtuosic Dixit Dominus.

Conductor Harry Christophers introduces the programme:

‘Handel is one of only a handful of composers who was truly multi-faceted - a master of orchestral and vocal textures, both triumphant and profound. Simply compare the bustling, joyous activity of the Arrival of the Queen of Sheba with the dark, anxious apprehension of the Overture to Jephtha, and you will know exactly what I mean. However, it is majestic grandeur, alongside moments of exquisite tenderness, which overridingly characterise all the works in this programme.’

Tickets: £30 - £15 National Box Office: 01904 651485 / www.ncem.co.uk. Local Box Office: Cathedral shop 024 7652 1210. Rachael Kelly

Spiritual Formation Course 2016

Archbishop Justin, when asked what must be the number one priority of the church, replied ‘Spirituality’. If you are looking for ways to grow deeper in God, this Diocesan course could be the next step for you.

Choose afternoons or evenings - alternate Thursdays 2.15pm to 4.15pm or 7.30pm to 9.30pm from Thursday 7th January at St John’s Centre, Berkswell. More information on the Community Table or email passionatespirituality@live.co.uk. Margaret Lloyd

Christmas Appeal

Could you help by giving a precious extra gift this Christmas? The gift of a mosquito net together with training in how to use it?

Malaria is the leading cause of death in Nigeria causing 250,000 deaths of pregnant women and children every year. By providing training in malaria awareness and a safe place to sleep, these needless deaths could be prevented. Gift envelopes are available on the Community Table, for making donations towards this appeal or you can donate online at: christianaid.org.uk/Christmas. The UK Government has undertaken to double all donations up to a maximum of £5 million until February 5th 2016.

Moya Horton (Cathedral Christian Aid Coordinator)

Coventry Foodbank

Last week I took 441 tins and packets of food to the Foodbank Warehouse. These included items bought with cash donations from 18 people totalling £245. I will carry over money given through the Big Christmas Card and a proportion of sales from the Catering Group’s stall in the figures for January. The overall total of items given to the Foodbank since we started in April 2012 stands at 11,558.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our work for the Foodbank over the last three and three quarter years. Happy Christmas!

The next Foodbank Sundays are 3rd January, 7th February and 6th March.

Richard Chamberlaine-Brothers