**Christmas card sale**
There are a few packs left of the acclaimed Friends’ 80th Anniversary Christmas Card. You can buy packs of eight cards (four of each of the two designs), for the bargain price of £2.50 today, from the Friends’ table after the Eucharist. The two cards feature, respectively, the spire of the old Cathedral Church of St. Michael in the snow, and the Choir in front of the Christmas tree in the Nave. A real Christmas bargain and you will be supporting the Friends!

**A crib for our time**
On Monday, 30th November, Sarah Hosking, daughter of the sculptor Alma Ramsey-Hosking, who was commissioned by Sir Basil Spence to create a Crib for his new Cathedral, will share some of the secrets behind the design of the Crib, and explain how it was restored in 2007. To attend this ‘Friendly Monday’, please sign the sheet on the Community Table today – 10.30am coffee and tea, followed by the talk at 11am in the Undercroft Lecture Room.

‘These are a few of my favourite things’
We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to write about 100 words, describing their ‘favourite thing’, in or around the Cathedral. These items about the things you especially love, and if possible why, will be published in The Friends’ Newsletter in March 2016. There are so many wonderful works of art and treasures around almost every corner, as well as the glory of the buildings themselves, that give us inspiration. Please pop your thoughts on paper and leave them for me on the Community Table, or email me: janecorrigan45@btinternet.com by January 31st. With many thanks, Jane Corrigan, Editor, Andrew Paine, Chairman of the Friends

**WHAT’S ON IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 29th November</td>
<td>6.30pm: Light in Our Darkness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 30th November</td>
<td>Friendly Mondays - 10.30am: ‘A Crib for our Time’</td>
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<td>Monday 9th December</td>
<td>2pm: Volunteers Monday - a Dean and Canons Christmas Special.</td>
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<td>Saturday 12th December</td>
<td>6pm: ‘Joy to the World’ NSPCC Christmas Concert with St. Michael’s Singers.</td>
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<td>Saturday 19th December</td>
<td>2pm: BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Carol Service.</td>
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<td>Sunday 20th December</td>
<td>6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight.</td>
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<td>Monday 21st December</td>
<td>6pm: ‘Blue Christmas on the Longest Night’</td>
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<td>Wednesday 23rd December</td>
<td>6pm: Kerry Beaumont plays Messiaen’s ‘La Nativité du Seigneur’.</td>
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<td>Thursday 24th December</td>
<td>3pm: ‘Journey to Bethlehem’</td>
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<td>Thursday 24th December</td>
<td>7pm: ‘Form of a Servant’</td>
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Please send items for inclusion in the next edition of Cathedral Matters by end of TUESDAY 24th November 2015. Tel: 02476 521200 or email: cathedral.matters@coventrycathedral.org.uk Website address: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

**Advent talks - ‘Living Reconciliation’**
During Advent there will be a series of talks focusing on ‘Living Reconciliation’ led by Phil Groves, author of ‘Living Reconciliation’, who will explore how reconciliation is at the heart of mission and a guiding principle of scripture. The remaining three of the four talks will take place on Thursday 26th November, Monday 7th December and Tuesday 15th December. They can be treated as a series or as stand-alone talks. The event is free with donations to support the reconciliation ministry welcome. Reconciliation Ministry Team
The Diocesan Reader assisting at the Eucharist today is Helen Allred from St Mary’s, Nuneaton.

**Coming soon: Grave Talk**
The Four Last Things — Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell — have long been part of the Advent journey, so on the eve of Advent Sunday it seems appropriate to offer a chance to engage with this.

Wherever you are in your faith, it can be very hard to think about your own funeral or indeed any of the other questions around death and dying that we all need to face at some point. Grave Talk is a café space that offers the opportunity to explore these big questions, with the help of specially designed conversation cards…

Why not join us at 10.30am on Saturday 28th November in the Lecture Hall for coffee, cake and conversation? In addition to the “Grave Talk” discussions, there will be an opportunity to fill in a funeral plan and to talk through any other matters around death and dying that are important to you.

If you’d like to talk more at any time, do please contact Canon Kathryn.

**November is Will Aid Month**
Will Aid month is here, and it’s time to get your Will drawn up by a local solicitor in return for a voluntary donation to charity.

Don’t forget, for the next couple of weeks participating solicitors won’t charge you for writing a basic Will. Instead, they will invite you to make a donation to a charity. The suggested voluntary donations are £95 for a single Will, or £150 for a pair of ‘mirror’ Wills. We recommend you make an appointment as soon as possible, because solicitors’ Will Aid appointments diaries are already filling up fast.

In this edition of Cathedral Matters we have included a copy of our leaflet which explains how you could leave a legacy to the Cathedral. Christine Doyle

**Mothers’ Union**
**Cake Today!**
The Mothers’ Union will be holding their annual Cake and Gift Sale after the 10.30am service today. This is to raise funds for our vital work. Your support is greatly appreciated. Evelyn Warwick

**CCN Evening**
**Monday 23rd November at 7pm**
All are welcome to join us at Saint Michael’s House on Monday 23rd November at 7pm for an informal evening to discover more about our German partners in the Community of the Cross of Nails. Ricarda Fillhardt

**Thank you**
Thank you to all those who supported the Choir Christmas Fayre last Sunday. Nearly £400 was raised towards Choir Funds and we hope to continue fundraising until Christmas with the aim of reaching £500. The answers to ‘Guess the Gadget’ were shoehorn, sugar tongs, darning mushroom, spirit level and a bean slicer! First prize goes to Rex Satchewell who got all the answers right. Corinne Hepburn (Chorister parent)

**An update from Thérèse Mema Mapenzi**
In November 2014, the Coventry International Prize for Peace and Reconciliation was awarded to Thérèse Mema Mapenzi from the Justice and Peace Commission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Peace Prize recognises those who work at grass roots level with a passion for reconciliation and a determination to change their communities for the better.

Thérèse Mema Mapenzi is the Sexual Violence Programme Leader for the Justice and Peace Commission funded by CAFOD. Rape is a weapon of war which has a devastating impact on the lives of women and girls and the communities within which they live.

Her work provides a safe place and a voice for those whose lives have been affected by sexual violence through a project called the Listening Rooms.

Thérèse has sent the following update:

“I have to say thanks to people of Coventry for their prayers and support.

“I am very busy these days with the last part of my course. After November, I have received another prize in Germany. The two prizes came to reinforce my commitment in the work of Listening Rooms. I have focused on the problems of children. I share you one of the articles that I have written. It is in French but hope you can see the message. I also share you the pictures of some of the people I helped with the money from the prize.

“Also I have been in the United Nations to participate as a Panellist in the high level meeting surrounding the principles of humanity. My heart is there and I am praying with all of you. Many thanks again, Thérèse”

A copy of her speech and article are on the Community Table.
teacher, who had visited Coventry before, and had taken our story back to her School and her R.E. classes, an environment where our story could have a real impact.

In small schools, ideas travel fast. Soon, children from other faiths were sitting in on Catholic Religion classes, and peace Cranes marked the stairs to the staff room. When it was time to present the cross, its impact was clear. At the service were Catholic monks, Lutheran pastors and Orthodox priests. But what made Guntramsdorf such a good example of the ICONS network in action was that it was the students who took the lead - the very same students who were already taking responsibility for their choices and their lives (not to mention supporting the Cathedral’s reconciliation work, having funded our plane tickets to Austria and back). The teacher who had initiated the process struggled and failed to hold back tears of joy in the service.

Afterwards, the cross was carried in procession from the Church back to the school by one of the girls. The other children, staff and guests followed behind, the line stretching out of sight. That is what Coventry’s reconciliation ministry is - a line stretching back into the past, and moving forward, led by the Cross of Nails, towards a world reconciled to itself.

Jack Fleming (former Intern)

Responding to our generous God
The start of the Church Year, Advent, is an excellent opportunity for each of us to re-evaluate our level of giving. How much does it reflect any change in our financial circumstances, whether for better or for worse? How much does it reflect our increase in faith in a God who has promised to care for us whatever the circumstances and who longs for us to reflect his generosity in the world?

If you do not do so already and if you are a member of the Cathedral community, please may I encourage you to plan your giving for the coming year, ideally by setting up a Standing Order or by reviewing and renewing it. If you are a Taxpayer, Gift Aid can increase the value of your gift. Do take an appropriate form from the Community Table or speak to me after the service.

Godfrey Armitage, Churchwardens’ Stewardship Programme

Community Christmas Card
Again this year we are having a Community Christmas Card. The card will be on the Community Table at the beginning of December. Please sign the card, send your greetings and put a donation in the box. The money raised will go to the Foodbank. It seems appropriate that we thank Richard for all his hard work over the year organising this vital project and keeping us informed of its progress.

The Catering Team is in action again. Whilst we all look forward to Christmas festivities with family and friends we know that many people adults and children lack the basics of life, food shelter clothing etc. Again we are supporting the Joe Homan Charity and homeless people in Coventry. On December 6th and 13th we will be selling Brenda’s mince pies, Richard’s chutney, Rex’s lemon curd, Pam’s greetings cards, more delicious bakes and also hand-made craft items which will make beautiful gifts. There will be a list on the community table where you can order mince pies to be delivered up to Christmas. Do come and support us. Best wishes from the Catering Team, Pam, Brenda, Rex & Richard

Sunday 29th November and Sunday 6th December
Chorister Fundraising Table
Homemade Christmas puddings, chutney and jam will be for sale, alongside chorister CD’s and Christmas cards before and after morning service at the main entrance. Clauery Coopey

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

This week on Facebook
Last week we posted a great deal on Facebook about our response to the terrorist attacks in Paris. Our posting of the address made by the Chairman of the Coventry Muslim Forum at the Civic Service last week has now reached 3,376 people.

Pictures of the Human Chain for Light and Peace also went viral with 9,000 people seeing it. Finally our posting on Facebook on the 15th November has currently been seen by 25,800 people. Please follow us at Facebook.cm/coventrycathedral. Christine Doyle
CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY NOTICES

Cathedral Safeguarding

During this morning’s service Jane Williams is being admitted to the role of Cathedral Safeguarding Officer. Jane is well known to many of us through her work as a server during worship and through her work in Romania.

What is a Cathedral Safeguarding Officer?

Every church has a responsibility to deal with concerns that are raised about children and vulnerable adults both within and outside its community. This includes the Cathedral. To help churches to meet their obligation the Diocese of Coventry has developed a Safeguarding Policy, and it has appointed a Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser to help the Safeguarding Officer appointed by each parish.

Within the Cathedral Jane will work closely with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser and with Canon Kathryn, and Jane is the point of contact if concerns are raised by any of us. Training will be available to help us all to understand what signs should concern us, and the action we should take.

Jane has set up a Safeguarding Advisory Group with community members who are involved in the Cathedral’s work with the public, and particularly with children and young people. This Group meets three times a year to help the Chapter meet the Cathedral’s legal obligations under current legislation. The Archbishop has initiated a safeguarding examination of church organisations and a safeguarding audit is being undertaken currently at the Cathedral.

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is everyone’s business. That means all of us – not just here within the Cathedral Community but at home wherever we live - in our street, our village, our neighbourhood. If you would like to speak with Jane, her telephone number is 024 7650 2349 and her email address is – JaneMLWill@aol.com. 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 three 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 the journey of discovery. We are offering three circles on Saturday 28th November, Saturday 9th January, and Saturday 30th January from 1pm-5pm. If you are interested in joining one or all three of the peace circles, please email smh@coventrycathedral.org.uk. Haley Jones, Reconciliation Ministry Team

Coventry Foodbank

Last week I took 231 tins and packets of food to the Foodbank Warehouse. These included items bought with your cash contributions of £110. The total number of items sent to the Foodbank now stands at 11,117. Thank you to each person who supports our work for the Foodbank. With Christmas in mind, I hope we will be able to get close to a total of 12,000. The next Foodbank Sundays are 6th December, 3rd January and 7th February. Richard Chamberlaine-Brothers

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 overriding characterise all the works in this programme.’

Tickets: £15 - £30 National Box Office: 01904 651 485 / www.ncem.co.uk. Local Box Office: Cathedral shop 024 7652 1210. Rachael Kelly

The Origins of Islamic State — Looking beyond the “what?” to the “why?”

Tuesday 1st December 2015, 7pm-8:30pm

St Michael’s House will be hosting a free talk for members of the public exploring the rise of the so-called Islamic State. Although the news usually focuses on “what” is happening in the Middle East, they rarely consider the “why” — why has this group developed, and managed to capture so much territory across Iraq and Syria?

This is the purpose of the talk: to look at the history of both Iraq and Syria so we can explore the reasons behind the rise of Islamic State, and then consider whether there are any lessons that we can draw upon from this history to help us today. The evening will finish with a Q&A session.

The speaker is Matt Robinson, a graduate in Politics from Durham University who now works as an intern on the Reconciliation Team at Coventry. His dissertation thesis studied the Sunni/Shia divide in Iraq up to 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact Matt on: matt.robinson@coventrycathedral.org.uk

Degree success!

Congratulations to Şeye Falope, Cathedral Churchwarden, on gaining his MBA degree with Merit from Coventry University. In January 2016 Şeye will commence work towards a PhD in Business Administration. We wish him every blessing as he continues his studies. Cathedral Community