Monday 18th to Friday 29th January

- 'Germany's Confrontation with the Holocaust in a Global Context': Exhibition on display in the Chapel of Christ the Servant.

Saturday 30th January

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

Saturday 30th January

- 6pm: 'Discovering the Classics' with Saint Michaels Singers and the 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.

The Sixteen return to Coventry - Thursday 4th February 2016 at 7.30pm

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

Grave Talk
The afternoon scheduled for 25th January has been postponed until 8th February. Please contact Canon Kathryn for more details or to book your place.

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

The Sixteen choir and orchestra devote an entire evening to the glorious music of Handel, including his virtuosic Dixit Dominus.

WHAT’S ON IN JANUARY AND MARCH 2016

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral. Whether this is your first visit, or your regular place of worship, we pray that you will know God’s peace and presence with you today.

Today in the Cathedral we are saying farewell to Reverend Canon Stephen Fielding. Stephen has been with us since Autumn 2014, as Canon Treasurer, and he will be preaching and presiding at Holy Communion. After the service, we will be gathering for a community lunch to allow us to express our appreciation for his contribution to our common life, and to wish him and Angela well for the future. Please do keep them in your prayers.

Later today, I will be flying out to South Africa to join Canon Sarah Hills for the international meeting of leaders from the Community of the Cross of Nails. We are really grateful for the support of our international partners in Germany and the United States who make this travelling possible at no direct cost to the cathedral. The network goes from strength to strength, inspiring and bringing people together in the work for Peace and Reconciliation. I will be continuing to travel and preach elsewhere in South Africa following our meeting in Cape Town, returning in time for Ash Wednesday on February 10th. Please do pray for our meeting, for the CCN, and ask if you’d like to know more about what we do.

Every blessing to you and those on your heart today

John Witcombe

The Very Reverend John Witcombe MA MPhil
Dean of Coventry

CATHEDRAL MATTERS

Sunday 24th January

8.00am Holy Communion (Holy Trinity)
10.30am The Cathedral Eucharist
4.00pm Choral Evensong
6.30pm Open: Cathedral Praise

Sunday 31st January

8.00am Holy Communion (Holy Trinity)
10.30am The Cathedral Eucharist
4.00pm Choral Evensong
6.30pm Open: Eucharist for Candlemas

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The Dean and Canons this Sunday….

Canon Sarah continues her reconciliation visit to South Africa and will be joined by Dean John on Monday 25th January. Their visits will overlap for one week when Canon Sarah will return and Dean John stay until Wednesday 10th February.
same time, same place, new name
“Later” has become “OPEN” to reflect the three priorities for this service: that we should be OPEN to all, regardless of whether you are a regular church-goer, a cautious returner, or a bundle of doubts on legs: OPEN to creative ways of meeting God in worship, to celebrating God’s love with all of our senses, and singing a new song to the Lord with lips, hearts and lives: OPEN to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we move forward together in faith and discover how God wants us to serve the city.

Saltmine Theatre Company’s Darkness Falls – John’s Gospel performed at Warwick Arts Centre
Saltmine Theatre Company is excited to announce that their major new production - Darkness Falls – John’s Gospel is the remarkable re-imagining of the Gospel of John. Moving, funny, poetic and fantastical, this play mixes vivid storytelling with beautiful live music to bring you a timeless story as you’ve never seen it before. Written and produced by Saltmine Theatre Company in partnership with UCCF and booked by Warwick University Christian Union, this production makes an ideal outreach event for churches to attend and invite non-church family and friends (age 12 and upwards) to.

A message from the catering team
This Christmas we raised a really fantastic amount of money to help those people who are less fortunate than us. There are so many to thank, first of all to the people who gave us produce and jars, those who made items for our stalls and those of you who bought it all! A big thanks to the Dean without his permission it would not happen. £400 has been sent to the Joe Homan Charity, £250 to local homeless people, £100 to the food bank and £65 to Myton Hospice.

This Sunday we are having a farewell lunch for Stephen and Angela. There are a few spaces left, let me know as soon as you read this. Having read Jack Fleming’s article in last week’s Cathedral Matters we would like to donate any profit to his fundraising activity. Good luck Jack! Pam, Brenda Rex and Richard

Breadmakers
Your new rota for 2016 will be ready for collection on the Community Table on Sunday 24th January 2016. Last year five Breadmakers stepped down. If anybody would like to help with this important part of our worship, please ring me on 07887 991778. Many thanks. Eileen Third

Statement from Sarah Hills, cont’d
In Coventry, we are used to arriving at ‘the morning after’. In November 1940, the people of Coventry arrived at a morning after a night of bombing that destroyed the city and ruined our cathedral. The morning after a night of terror, of the drone of bombers, of fire and fear. Of confusion and heartache and dread. Of pain and loss.

Into this arena of tangled metal and emotions walked Provost Howard and said those two words, ‘Father, forgive’.

While we are today facing a very different ‘morning after’ the Primates statement, some of the feelings are the same. Feelings of confusion, anger, and hurt. And also relief for some, maybe. Although the worldwide Anglican Communion has not split, it is hurt. The question for us now, like for the people of Coventry in 1940, is how do we respond? Provost Howard responded without revenge, with a call for peace and reconciliation. With the hope of living in a ‘more Christ-child like and kinder world’. In November last year, we held the ‘Rising Global Peace Forum’ here in the Cathedral. Hilary Benn, the shadow foreign secretary was one of the speakers, and he talked movingly of his grandfather’s experiences in the two world wars of losing members of his family. His grandfather said, ‘Peril shared knits hearts together, yes, even between enemies – folk the world over desire peace’. Hilary Benn then asked the question, very pertinent for us today, along the lines of, ‘What are the consequences of acting or not?’ What are the consequences of doing nothing? Of not seeking peace? Of not trying to knit hearts together?

This is a vital question for us here in this space that we hope is for reconciliation. It is just as vital today, the morning after the Primates’ statement, as it was 75 years ago for Provost Howard and the city of Coventry. I would say that Provost Howard in 1940 had a good idea what would happen and the consequences if he had instead taken the path of revenge and judgement. But he didn’t. He gave Coventry and the world a prophetic and radical message. He prayed, ‘Father, forgive’.

I was very struck recently by a translation by Erasmus of the prologue to John’s gospel. Instead of, ‘In the beginning was the word’, Erasmus translates this as ‘In the beginning was the CONVERSATION’. In the beginning was the conversation. Exactly. Because how can we live in isolation? How can we live without dialogue? How can we live out the gospel message of reconciliation if we do not listen to each other? To God? So, how DO we walk and talk together? Well, we follow Jesus, walking and talking on the road to Emmaus, our hearts burning within us…

Canon Sarah’s statement concluded with the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation.
Simon Lloyd - leaving for pastures new

Last week the Archbishop of Wales announced that Simon Lloyd is to be the next Provincial Secretary of the Church in Wales. This is the most senior lay role in the Church in Wales and effectively its chief executive officer.

Archbishop Barry said, "Simon Lloyd will bring his vast experience and expertise to the post of Provincial Secretary, having served for 10 years as Diocesan Secretary of the Diocese of Coventry and before that in the world of business. Born and brought up until he was nine in Wales, he is returning to his roots and we welcome him home."

Simon said, "After 10 happy years serving the Diocese of Coventry, I sense that God is calling me back to my roots in Wales to serve the Church there. I am excited by the challenges and opportunities that my new role will bring, but I'm going to miss the many friends and colleagues that I have made in Coventry and Warwickshire. I shall continue to pray for the diocese, and would be grateful for your prayers for me."

In response to the announcement, the Bishop of Coventry said, "Simon Lloyd has served the Diocese of Coventry with enormous energy, skill and wisdom for the last 10 years. He has been a superb colleague and I – together with so many in the Diocese – will miss him greatly. Nevertheless, we send him on gladly to the Church in Wales, grateful for all he has given to us and joyful that a whole Province of the Anglican Communion will now be blessed by his many gifts."

Simon will take up his new appointment as Provincial Secretary on 1 May 2016. Please pray for Simon and the Church in Wales.

Graeme Pringle

Statement from Sarah Hills, Canon for Reconciliation, Coventry Cathedral, concerning the fallout from the Primates’ Meeting:

For the past few months we have been sharing with you stories from the reconciliation archives; this week we thought you would be interested in Canon Sarah’s comments following the Primates meeting. This was posted on all of our Facebook pages and Twitter feeds on the 15th January.

1 Corinthians 12: 12

‘For just as the body is one and has many members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit.’

We have arrived at the morning after. The morning after the Anglican Communion has suspended the Episcopal Church of America for three years from various voting rights in the Communion. It is hard to see how ‘the body is one’. Feelings of hurt, outrage, sadness, grief are being flung around the airwaves and the internet. Yet the Primates have pledged to continue to ‘walk together’.

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 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. 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

An update from the Choir Parents Association:

Sunday 7th Feb - Chorister Cake Sale:

There will be a cake sale alongside chorister CD’s and homemade jam before and after morning service at the main entrance. Also there will be a table top sale after morning service on this same day. This is to sell brand new donated items (perhaps unwanted Christmas or birthday presents) in a bid to raise desperately needed funds to support chorister tours in 2016. A collection box has been left in the music school or items can be left at reception for choir parents to collect. Please leave donations ASAP.

Bags for school Collection: Please note that curtains, bedding, towels and corporate school and work wear are no longer accepted by Bags for School. Please leave donations in the blue plastic bags provided in the vestry or at the Community Table before Friday 26th February. Clare Coopey

Quiet Day: Encountering God’s Love Saturday 6th February.

We are leading a quiet day at Coventry Prayer House Day Retreat Centre (5 Lychgate Cottages) on Saturday 6th February from 10am to 4pm. Give yourself time and space to encounter God’s love through meditation and contemplative prayer with scripture. More details, and information about other events at the Prayer House, on the Community Table and the Events noticeboard. To book contact: coventryprayerhouse@gmail.com or 07928 835133. John and Margaret Lloyd

Coventry Half Marathon Sunday 28th February

There will be limited access to roads around the Cathedral on Sunday 28th February due to the Coventry Half Marathon. Information about road closures is on the Community Table. Christine Doyle
Ghana Volunteering – Living Below the Line
I have been selected to take part in International Citizen Service, a DfID backed scheme which provides international volunteering opportunities for 16-25 year olds. In April, I will be travelling to northern Ghana, where I will be hosted by a local family, and complete a 12-week placement with the charity International Service, which works to protect and promote the rights and inclusion of marginalised groups, especially women, children and people with disabilities. I will be keen to tell you about my experiences when I return in July.

All the costs of the placements are covered by DfID, meaning that the scheme is accessible to anyone, however participants are asked to fundraise £800, which is ‘paid forward’, helping more young people get involved.

Around 25% of the population of Ghana lives on less than $1.25 (a little under a pound) per day so, to help meet my £800 fundraising target, I am challenging myself to do the same. I will be ‘Living Below the Line’ from the 28th to 31st January. This experience should help me understand a little better the problems that charities like International Service aim to address. If this is something you would like to support, please do talk to me, email j.f.e.fleming@gmail.com or visit www.justgiving.com/jfefleming (where you can donate directly, and find out more about ICS, International Service, my placement and my fundraising activity). Jack Fleming

An update from the Property team
There will be several contractors on site next week. The flood remediation work in the Undercroft will commence on Monday 25th January which means that the kitchen, lecture hall and toilets by the lift will be out of action for several weeks.

On Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th and possibly Friday 29th the Cathedral Architect will be inspecting the cladding on the Chapel of Unity. An access platform will be used so there will be no parking outside the Chapel of Unity and access around it may be restricted at certain times.

Finally, on Friday 29th a drainage company are surveying the drains beneath the upper car park and below the lawn fronting Priory Street. This means there will be no parking against the Cathedral wall in the upper car park that day as access to the manholes is restricted. Please speak to Louise Nicholls about alternative parking.

Tony Auty, Director of Property

Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN): North America
Tuesday 26th January 2016 at 7pm
Saint Michael’s House
We will focus on the work of our newest North American partner - Christ Church Cathedral in St Louis, MO. After the shooting of an unarmed teenager Michael Brown by a police office in Ferguson, MO, Christ Church Cathedral played a significant role in the Black Lives Matter Movement. Join us for a history of the movement and the work of Christ Church Cathedral. Haley Jones (Intern)

Reconciliation Ministry: Lenten Lecture series 2016
The theme of our four Lenten Lectures is ‘Towards Reconciliation: Understanding Violence and the Sacred’.

Sacred violence’, committed in the name of God, is one potent symptom of an age haunted, perplexed and challenged by violence in many forms. This lecture series reviews the arguments and suggests that the enterprise of reconciliation in today’s fast globalising world passes through a deeper, more strategic recognition of the springs and origins of human violence. The lectures will be presented by Professor Paul Gifford (SOAS, University of London):

Monday 22nd February at 7pm: ‘The Problem of Sacred Violence’.
Tuesday 1st March at 7pm: ‘Dramas of Origin: the notion of ‘Founding Murder’.
Tuesday 8th March at 7pm: ‘Violence, the archaic Sacred and Judeo-Christian Revelation’.
Wednesday 16th March at 2.30pm: ‘Passion, Resurrection and Reconciliation’.

All lectures will be held in Saint Michael’s House. The lectures will also appear as video presentations uploaded to www.coventrycathedral.org.uk.