Our regular giving

A couple of weeks ago, Canon Stephen preached on the importance of growth to the cathedral. He particularly mentioned the need for growth in our cathedral income. He asked us the question: how can each of us help the cathedral to grow?

We are so grateful to all of you who have continued to maintain your level of giving this year, whether by standing order or by numbered envelope. The cathedral depends very much on your generosity for its lifeblood. What you give enables us to pay staff, to heat and maintain the buildings and to run much of the ministry here.

Congregational giving totalled £174,000 in 2013, but fell to £139,500 last year. Early projections indicate a lower result by the end of 2015 if we continue at current levels. Much of the reduction is due to people dying or leaving Coventry. You will appreciate that this situation is urgent and important. How can we reverse this trend?

I would like to make two suggestions. The first is addressed to all of you who currently contribute. Would you be kind enough to review your level of giving? (It is two years since we had a stewardship review of this kind). If having done so you conclude that your level of giving is precisely right for you, then please take no further action. On the other hand, if you find that there is scope to increase your giving, may I invite you to do so?

The second suggestion is to those of you who are not part of any regular or planned programme of giving to the cathedral. Could I ask you please to consider giving regularly by standing order?

Giving regularly is a really valuable way of supporting this amazing place and its worldwide ministry of reconciliation, and I should love to hear further from you. Please do speak to me or Canon Stephen after the Service.

Godfrey Armitage

Sunday 24th May - 11.50am Launch of the new organ DVD.
Monday 25th May - 1pm Lunchtime organ concert with Laurence Lyndon-Jones.
Monday 1st June - 1pm Lunchtime organ concert with Nicholas Wearne.
Thursday 4th June - Friends of Coventry Cathedral - new members event.
Sunday 7th June - Foodbank Sunday and CPA Cake Sale.
Monday 8th June - 1pm Lunchtime organ concert with Nicholas Haigh.
Thursday 12th June - 12.05pm hour of prayer for the Christian Service Centre.

We warmly welcome you to the Cathedral today, especially if you are one of our international visitors. Today is Pentecost Sunday, when we celebrate the pouring out of the Holy Spirit of God into all the world, and through all languages. Our international ministry from this Cathedral has been a central part of our work for nearly seventy five years, and will be signaled today especially through the invitation to pray the Lord’s Prayer in German, the language of our former enemies.

As members of the cathedral community know, I have been doing a great deal of travelling lately. On Thursday 14th May I was a guest of St. Laurence Church and the City of Rotterdam, speaking from our history about the importance of remembering, on the 75th anniversary of the destruction of their city through Luftwaffe bombing. We gathered by the extraordinary statue ‘the Destroyed City’ by French Russian sculptor Ossip Zadkine to lay wreaths and commit ourselves to a different future.

Next week I will be travelling to the United States, for the first time since coming to Coventry, visiting New England, Houston, Denver and New York. I will be welcoming a new Cross of Nails community partner in Tarrifville, Connecticut, strengthening links with existing partners in Massachusetts and preaching in the cathedral in Denver, talking to the Diocese of Texas about coming into the CCN and meeting the clergy of Trinity Wall Street in New York. I hope that we will be able to share our vision and inspiration, and some of those whom I meet will want to share their resources! Please pray for the success of this visit, and for our continuing life and ministry.

Every blessing to you all, John Witcombe
The Diocesan Readers assisting at the Eucharist today are Audrey Rowberry from All Saints Leek Wootton and Richard Spicer from St Mary’s Cubbington.

**The Magna Carta conference Tuesday 23rd June**

As part of the 800th anniversary activities for the Magna Carta, Bishop Christopher and Dean John are hosting a one day conference on the allure of this ancient document and why it is still relevant in the 21st century.

Speaking at the conference ‘The Allure of Magna Carta: Freedom, Democracy and Reconciliation’, are David Carpenter, Professor of Medieval History at King’s College London, John McEldowney, Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Warwick, the Reverend Robin Griffith-Jones, Master of the Temple, London, Chris Bryant, M.P., author of Parliament: The Biography (Doubleday, 2014) and Professor Neil Williams

**Supporting our CCN partner in Sibiu**

For over 20 years members of the Cathedral Community have been supporting work amongst the poorest areas of Transylvania, based on the city of Sibiu where there is a Cross of Nails link. For the last 6 years we have sponsored university students from Coventry and Birmingham to spend their summer vacations using their skills in occupational therapy and in speech and language therapy to support disabled children at the Speranta Centre in Sibiu.

This year there are 18 volunteers who have offered their services. They pay their own living expenses, and the UK charity SHARE subsidises the travel costs. I am now seeking to raise £1,000 towards the cost of their flights. The work improves the life chances of the children by providing skilled help that they would otherwise not receive. It has also changed the lives of many of our volunteers.

If you are able to help the work with a donation, please get in touch either with me, Jane Williams (email: janemlwill@aol.com) or with Jean Alesbury (SHARE treasurer) 38 Westbrook Court, Coventry CV5 7RB.

Between us we are making a difference. Jane Williams

**Coventry Foodbank**

Last week I took 321 packets and tins of food to the Foodbank warehouse. These included items bought with cash donations from 20 people totalling £198. The foodbank told me that they needed fruit juice, fish and tinned vegetables so I spent most of your money on those items. They also asked me to pass on their thanks to all those at this Cathedral who continue to support them feeding people in Coventry. The next Foodbank Sundays are 7th June, 5th July and 2nd August.

*Richard Chamberlain-Brothers*

**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*

**Prayer Ministry and Chaplaincy**

The next date for your diary is Saturday 11th July when Ricarda Witcombe and Kathryn Fleming will lead a quiet day at Meriden church from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. Time for personal refreshment and for seeking God together for Hill Top. Details to follow. *Margaret Lloyd*

**Bardsley Youth Project Fundraising Dinner**

A date for your diary – Saturday 13th June, 7pm for 7.30pm Bardsley House, Hill Top

With stories and entertainment from Bardsley Youth. Bring your own drinks. Tickets £7.50 (or more) from Bek@bardsleyouth.org (07891 173011).

*Margaret Lloyd*

**Prayer for the Christian Service Centre Thursday 11th June 12.10 to 12.40 pm**

You are welcome to join us for an hour of prayer for the Christian Service Centre. This monthly prayer meeting will be led by the Reverend Yvonne Stone, Warwick Road URC in the Cathedral Chapel of Christ the Servant following the noon Litany of Reconciliation. This prayer meeting is held on the second Thursday of each month; in July it will be led by Cathedral Canon Kathryn Fleming.

*All are welcome to join us in seeking God for the social outreach projects through which the churches in and around the city centre seek to serve the city, including the Bardsley Work Club, Coffee Tots, Bardsley Youth Project, Cherished and the Foodbank. John Witcombe, Keith Parr, Adam Sanders, Yvonne Stone, Greg Bartlem, Helen Spicer, Gavin Kibble, Kathryn Fleming, Jean Fargher, Margaret Lloyd.*

**Bags 4 School Collection**

**Choir Parents Association**

The CPA exists to raise funds to provide bursaries for the Choir tours and trips so that no chorister feels that they are not able to go because of cost. We exist also to provide support for furthering the musical education of the choristers.

We are collecting for the Bags 4 Schools initiative, the deadline for which is the 17th July 2015

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 on the community table before the Eucharist for collection.

*Jane Williams*

**DVR Launch today!**

Do stay after the service this morning to celebrate the Launch of the Coventry Cathedral Organ DVD. Neil Collier will be here from Priory Records to tell us about the Series which features Cathedrals across the UK. Today we celebrate the organ of Coventry Cathedral, and its Director of Music, Kerry Beaumont, with sparkling wine and juice if you prefer! There will be the chance to purchase a DVD if you wish, at a special price, but the main focus of the Launch is of celebration for all that the instrument means to us at the Cathedral. The event will last about 35-40 minutes. 

*Corinne Hepburn*

**Volunteer Mondays Monday 1st June – 2.30pm**

**Life as the Museum’s Archaeologist**

Paul Thompson is the Museum Archaeologist at Culture Coventry. At this Volunteer Monday, he will share with us what his role includes and some fascinating history of some finds. He has promised to bring some objects for us to look at. *Christine Doyle*