Mulled wine and mince pies
Tonight, following the Advent Service 'Light in our Darkness', the Friends will once again be serving the traditional hospitality of mince pies and mulled wine. Join us for the Service at 6.30 pm, and then stay on afterwards to enjoy the seasonal cheer.

These are a few of my favourite things
We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to share their 'favourite thing' about the Cathedral. Just tell us, in about 100 words, what it is you love best, what means most to you, and why. The results will be published in the Spring Issue of the Friends bi-annual Newsletter. There are so many treasures that give us inspiration – please share your source of pleasure and praise.

Either leave a note for me on the Community Table, or email me direct, before 31st January 2016: janecorrigan@btinternet.com
Jane Corrigan Editor of the Newsletter
Andrew Paine Chairman of the Friends of Coventry Cathedral

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2015

Sunday 29th November
8.00am Holy Communion (Holy Trinity)
10.30am The Cathedral Eucharist
6.30pm Light in our Darkness

Sunday 6th December
8.00am Holy Communion
10.30am The Cathedral Eucharist
4.00pm Evensong
6.30pm Later

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends

Advent is one of my favourite seasons - the evocative mingling of light and darkness speaks authentically into our mixed experience of life in the real world. We live in troubled times - local austerity cuts undermine our communities, whilst global insecurity leaves us feeling nervous and anxious. There is real darkness, especially for some. But there is also light, where human love and kindness breaks through the barriers that fear causes us to erect; where God's life opens us up again to one another, and to his salvation and forgiveness.

As we move through this season of Advent, we hold our world and our lives up to God's gracious judgement and love, trusting in his healing mercy and grace for all of us as we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth amongst us.

In love and peace,

John
The Very Reverend John Witcombe MA MPhil
Dean of Coventry
The Diocesan Readers assisting at the Eucharist today are Audrey Rowberry from All Saints Leek Wootton and Richard Spicer from St Mary’s Cubbington.

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 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. Clayre Coopey

The Origins of Islamic State — Looking beyond the “what?” to the “why?”
The Sixteen choir and orchestra devote an entire evening to the glorious music of Handel, including his virtuosic Dixit Dominus. Pieces will include the Arrival of the Queen of Sheba and the Overture to Jephtha.

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

Advent talks - ‘Living Reconciliation’
During Advent there will be a series of sessions 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 two of the four talks will take place on Monday 7th December and Tuesday 15th December. They can be treated as a series or as stand-alone events. They are free, with donations to support the reconciliation ministry welcome. Reconciliation Ministry Team

Prayer for the Christian Service Centre
Thursday 10th December 12.10-12.40pm
This monthly hour of prayer will be led by the Reverend Mark Rowland from Methodist Central Hall and will be held in the Chapel of Christ the Servant following the noon Litany of Reconciliation. 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 needs of the people of Coventry.

John Witcombe, Keith Parr, Adam Sanders, Yvonne Stone, Greg Bartlem, Helen Spicer, Gavin Kibble, Kathryn Fleming, Jean Fargher, Ann Tuesley, Margaret Lloyd.

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

News from the Friends of Coventry Cathedral
Cathedral Prayer Circle
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Meg Bowen

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), or all eight of one design, 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!

Cont’d overleaf….