Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

The Dean, Canons and assisting Readers this week

Canon Sarah is Canon in Residence this week. The Reader assisting at the Eucharist this morning is Donald Parr.

The Dean is in Virginia this weekend presenting a Cross of Nails to Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) and preaching at Christ Church Georgetown. The Centre for Anglican Communion Studies at VTS works through three imperatives: Reconcile, Reflect, Resource, each of which aligns with the priorities of the CCN: healing the wounds of history, learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity, and building a culture of peace.

There is a prayer station near to the Global Candlestand, at the top of the Chapel of Unity steps, for anyone wishing to pray for the people of Aleppo in their present terrible situation.

The Dean’s Community Prayer Focus for December

The Dean has asked us to pray especially this month:

- for a deep spiritual response to our Christmas services, that they will speak light and peace to a troubled world, and
- for an enthusiastic response to our Investors in Hope programme, which will allow the cathedral to continue to serve as a focus for that light and peace.

Please pray throughout the month as you are able, particularly if you can carry on setting aside ten minutes a day for prayer as the Dean has encouraged us all to try and manage.

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.
**CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**Community Christmas Card**
The Christmas card will be on the Community Table each Sunday up to Christmas. Donations this year will go towards Coventry Open Christmas at Queens Road Baptist Church from 23rd to 28th December. Help some of our homeless people in Coventry enjoy better food over the Christmas period by giving a donation and signing the card rather than sending cards to individual people. Thank you, St Michael’s Committee

**Planned Giving Envelopes**
Packs of envelopes for 2017, for present members of the envelope scheme, are now available for collection from the Community Table. If anyone can pick up and deliver a pack for someone else who is unable to collect it in person, that would be most helpful. The envelopes provide one method of regular giving as part of the stewardship programme. If you are not at present a member but would like to take advantage of this method please do contact me, either by speaking to me at the Cathedral or by telephone at home: 024 7671 1210, and I will be happy to answer any queries and put arrangements in place. If instead you would welcome information on alternative methods of supporting the Cathedral please have a word with me or anyone in the stewardship group – John Copas, David East or Dave Goodall. Thank you, Deryck Horton

**Flowers for Christmas**
If you would like to see some flowers in the Cathedral at Christmas there will be a suitable container for donations on the Community Table on 11th and 18th December. All contributions will be gratefully received. David East

**Calling all Stewards!**
If you have not already looked at the special services list (by the Stewards’ Rota) to see if you can help with any of the many events in December, please do. Barbara Mobbs

**Stalingrad Madonna Christmas Card**
Spread some ‘Light, Life and Love’ this Christmas! Coventry Cathedral is proud to present our 2016 Christmas Card, featuring the evocative image of the ‘Stalingrad Madonna’, a replica of which is on display in the Millennium Chapel within the New Cathedral. The purchase of this card helps to support the work of Coventry Cathedral, a living symbol of the power of forgiveness to overcome pain. The card is available online or at the Shop and Welcome desk priced £3 each, with a 10% discount available on orders of five or ten.

**Winter Night Shelter**
The shelter opened on December 1st. Please pray for contact with all those who would otherwise be sleeping on the streets. If you see someone needing shelter please refer them to the Salvation Army Lifehouse, Harnall Lane West or the Coventry Cyrenians, Oakwood House (next to the Job Centre): these are the routes to access the night shelters. All the shelters are free of charge. Please also pray for all the volunteers, including the Cathedral team providing meals on Friday evenings at St Oswald’s Tile Hill.
Margaret Lloyd

**NHS funding petition**
Some in our community are concerned at the crisis in our NHS and that no additional investment was announced in the Chancellor’s Autumn statement. A petition to the government to give the NHS the funding it needs can be found on the Community table. Please sign it if you share this concern.
Margaret Lloyd

**Update on Stephen Williams**
We would like to thank all those who have been praying for our son Stephen in New Zealand. Stephen was diagnosed with ‘terminal’ cancer in July and given four to six months to live without chemotherapy. We have been overwhelmed by the love and support we have received from so many people and their belief that there was hope. Love and prayer does work miracles because he is no longer terminally ill. This was his message sent after his third chemotherapy treatment - the result of a CT scan: ‘The enlarged lymph nodes are back to normal. The bone metastases are all showing signs of healing. No evidence of disease in the oesophagus. No new sites of disease.’
Please continue to keep him in your prayers.
Jane and Martin Williams

**A Message from the Events Team**
We are working really hard at present to create an engaging Christmas programme that appeals to a broad range of visitors. The programme will run from the 7th to the 21st of December and below is information about some of our key events.

We do need to generate revenue through all of this activity and we need your help to get the word out. The power of using our personal networks to market said events is huge and collectively I’m sure we can get the message out there and ensure we get the numbers we need through our doors.

As well as The Snowman (which is now sold out) and St Michael’s Singers Charity Christmas Concert in aid of the NSPCC we will be hosting Coventry Performing Arts Christmas Concert at 7pm this Wednesday 7th December (admission £4, hot chocolate and mince pies will be served) we are welcoming back Coventry Cathedral Dining Club over both of the next two weekends, 9th to 11th and 16th to 18th December - Friday 4pm-11 pm, Saturday noon-11 pm and Sunday noon-6pm - with festive stalls, funfair, mulled wine, music, cocktails and more!
Admission £3 (students £2, children under 14 FREE)
Rachael Kelly, Events Manager

**Christmas Goodies!**
Again this year the catering team hope to help local homeless people by selling our mince pies, lemon cheese/curd, and chutney. There will be a notice on the congregation table and you can sign up and collect your order every Sunday up to Christmas. If you would like a gift for someone we can provide a selection of all sorts of festive fayre and can present your order in festive wrapping with a handmade gift card.
Watch out M&S and Harrods!
With best wishes, Pam, Brenda, Rex & Richard