Looking for Christmas presents? Here’s some inspiration from the Cathedral Gift Shop….

For the music lover - the new Christmas CD from Saint Michael’s Singers (£14.99)

For the comic book lover - the Lion Comic Book Hero Bible… (£14.99)

More ideas next week!

WHAT’S ON IN DECEMBER 2015 AND JANUARY 2016

Monday 7th December
2pm: Volunteers’ Monday - a Dean and Canons Christmas Special.
7pm: Advent Talk - Living Reconciliation (Saint Michael's House).

Thursday 10th December
12.05pm: The monthly hour of prayer for the Christian Service Centre in the Chapel of Christ the Servant.

Saturday 12th December
6pm: ‘Joy to the World’ NSPCC Christmas Concert with Saint Michael’s Singers.

Tuesday 15th December
7pm: Advent Talk - Living Reconciliation (Saint Michael’s House).

Saturday 19th December
4.30pm: BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Carol Service.

Sunday 20th December
6.30pm: Carols by Candlelight.

Monday 21st December
6pm: ‘Blue Christmas on the Longest Night’

Wednesday 23rd December
6pm: Kerry Beaumont plays Messiaen’s ‘La Nativité du Seigneur’.

Thursday 24th December
3pm: ‘Journey to Bethlehem’

Thursday 24th December
7pm: ‘Form of a Servant’

Thursday 24th December
11pm: Midnight Christmas Eucharist (at Holy Trinity)

Friday 25th December
10.30am: Christmas Eucharist

Monday 4th January
6pm: Remember Our Child Service

Saturday 9th January
1pm - 5pm: Peace Circle for the Women of Coventry (Saint Michael’s House)

Sunday 10th January
4pm: A special Choral Evensong to give thanks for the work of our Volunteers and Cathedral Parish Partners. This service will be followed by light refreshments in the Lecture Hall. More information to follow.

Sunday 24th January
12 noon: Farewell Lunch for Canon Stephen and Angela Fielding.

Monday 18th to Friday 29th January
Holocaust Exhibition.

Saturday 30th January
6pm: ‘Discovering the Classics’.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CANON PASTOR

Dear Friends

Advent 2 already – and the forward momentum is increasing day by day. People are looking forward – some with anxiety that they will not manage to “get it all done” in time, others with delight at the prospect of time spent with friends or family. But for some, Christmas is a particular struggle, as they confront the reality of bereavement, serious illness or financial insecurity. It’s very tough when the whole world seems to be partying, and you want to go into a corner and cry.

That’s where our “Longest Night” service comes in, a quieter, more reflective service at 6.00 on 21st, which offers a safe space to acknowledge those feelings that are at odds with the loud messages of Christmas cheer on every side.

If you, a friend or neighbour, are feeling a bit “blue” and out of step with the season, it might be just what you need, as together we look for God’s light shining in the darkest places of our lives and of our world. Do come, and of course invite those whom you know find this season a hard one.

With love and blessings
Kathryn

Please send items for inclusion in the next edition of Cathedral Matters by end of TUESDAY 8th December 2015.
Tel: 02476 521200 or email: cathedral.matters@coventrycathedral.org.uk
Website address: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk
CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY NOTICES

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.

Christmas Food Goodies!
Today the catering team are selling preserves, mince pies, craft items and original hand-made greetings cards. We are hoping to bring some comfort and cheer to people locally and children in the poorest part of India. Please support this event as it is the only time during the year when we fund raise. You can order mince pies for Christmas just sign the form on the Community Table. The Community Christmas Card will be available for all to sign. Pam, Brenda, Rex and Richard

Communities of the Cross of Nails
To commemorate 75 years of peace building we’ve been collecting stories of reconciliation which have either been inspired by the Coventry story or from our work directly; some stories are recent, others from our history which you may have heard before and, perhaps, forgotten. These stories will be posted via our social media networks with some appearing in local press. Our aim is to illustrate that the Coventry story is as relevant today as it was 75 years ago.

For those members of our Cathedral community who are not online, we will be distributing stories via Cathedral Matters. Some stories are just a paragraph while others have been given to us in detail. We hope you find them interesting.

The early 90s - Breda Prison in the Netherlands
Much of the work from Coventry arises from the need of the moment. In the 1980s, the Netherlands were torn by a debate whether two very old men, Nazi War Criminals, should stay in Breda prison until their death.

Franz Fischer, 87, died eight months after being released. Fischer, a Gestapo official nicknamed “Judenfischer,” headed the “Judenreferat” (Committee for the Jews) in The Hague from 1942 to 1945, registering and deporting 13,000 Jews from that city.

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Franz Fischer, 87, died eight months after being released. Fischer, a Gestapo official nicknamed “Judenfischer,” headed the “Judenreferat” (Committee for the Jews) in The Hague from 1942 to 1945, registering and deporting 13,000 Jews from that city.

The humanitarian case for their release after half a century of imprisonment was overwhelming but in the light of public opinion, the government was reluctant to act. John Petty and Paul Oestreicher visited these old men. A plea from Coventry broke the log-jam. They did not live much longer but died in their own homes.

Source: Reconciling People: Coventry Cathedral’s Story; Local press

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 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. We are offering circles on Saturday 9th January and Saturday 30th January from 1pm-5pm. If you are interested in joining one or both of the peace circles, please email smh@coventrycathedral.org.uk.

Haley Jones, Reconciliation Ministry Team
As part of the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Coventry blitz the two iconic paintings created by John Piper in the days following the bombing have been reunited and are on display in the Herbert Art Gallery from the 10th November onwards.

To mark this unique event, we are working in partnership with the Goldmark Gallery to produce limited edition prints of both paintings to raise much needed funds.

In his rôle as a war artist, John Piper began painting both pictures in the days following the bombing; in fact, fires were still burning. The paintings tell of a specific point in time when everything was destroyed, but the vibrant colours used speak of hope from that destruction, which is what we have achieved through our work in peace and reconciliation. The two paintings have not been seen together since the 1940s and are just stunning.

John Piper continued his involvement with Coventry by designing the breathtaking Baptistry window, our vestments and kneelers.

The prints, of which there are limited editions of 250, will be on sale directly from the Goldmark Gallery (www.goldmarkart.com), for £495 each or £875 as a pair. The income from the sale of the limited edition prints will raise up to £100,000 for the Cathedral which will make a significant impact on our finances. Frames are not included but Goldmark are happy to discuss options with you.

For more information pick up a prospectus from the Community Table, visit Goldmark Gallery’s website at www.goldmarkart.com, speak to the Visitor Service team or Christine Doyle.

Advent Prayers in the Chapel of Unity
The Chapel of Unity will be hosting Advent Prayers for Christian Aid throughout the season, every Monday at 10am - a short candle lighting liturgy, which will then be left in the Chapel for anyone to use in their own time.

In addition we have the Christian Aid display material from the Greenbelt Festival. The display celebrates 70 years of Christian Aid, taking us back through old posters and campaigns and is a great opportunity to give thanks and look to the future.

Please join me on Monday 14th December, Monday 21st December and at 8am on Wednesday 23rd December when the Wednesday Morning Group will light the Christmas candle! Or feel free to visit in your own time. **Craig Muir**

**Calling all Stewards**
Please will Stewards look at the special services and events list by the Stewards rota to see if they can help with any of the activities leading up to Christmas. **Barbara Mobbs**

**Flowers at Christmas**
If you would like to see some flowers in the Cathedral for Christmas there will be a little flowery jug on the Community Table on Sunday 13th and 20th December. All donations will be gratefully received. Many thanks. **David East**

As Christmas draws near and life get busy buying presents and preparing for visitors, we are encouraging everyone to make space for just two minutes a day to reflect on Advent. Advent is one of the most overlooked seasons in the church calendar but it is as important as Lent and Pentecost. The Advent calendar is known to everyone and a favourite in childhood so we are producing an online Reconciliation Advent Calendar via our Facebook page.

With the recent attacks in Paris and Beirut and the awful conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan, many people are aware of their mortality and how fragile life can be. Advent is about waiting, about moving from darkness to light and we hope that these two minute reflections on Facebook will help people understand how peace can be built, and sustained and that there can be a way forward following conflict. **Canon Kathryn and Canon Sarah**
Volunteers Monday - Tomorrow
Monday 7th December at 2pm – A Dean and Canons special! (Lecture Hall)
Join the Dean and Canon Kathryn for a special 'any questions'! This is the opportunity to quiz them on their life, loves and any odd habits plus we will be introducing the ‘Dean and Canons Challenge’ so please bring with you a gift that you were once given or something that means a lot to you (please do not show Dean John or Canon Kathryn the item before the meeting).
If you give your time to support the work of the Cathedral, Volunteer Mondays are an ideal way of getting to know each other – all are welcome for a bit of fun leading up to Christmas. Christine Doyle

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

Hear the stories – Record the History
Would you like to be involved in an oral history project and be one of the interviewers? A number of people who have memories and stories to tell have been interviewed and recorded over the years and we want to talk to many more in 2016. They could include members of the Cathedral congregation, former clerics and musicians, and those who have been employed by the Cathedral in a variety of roles. Their fascinating stories will be part of a living archive that one day may become accessible to visitors from all over the world. If you would like to join a small team please let me know: janecorrigan45@btinternet.com or telephone 024 76311113. Jane Corrigan

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

News from the Friends of Coventry Cathedral
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!

You can also collect your newsletter
Copies of the Friends’ December e bulletin are available free on the Community Table today, for those without Internet access.

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Andrew Paine, Chairman of the Friends of Coventry Cathedral

This week on our social media sites
This week on our Facebook page we began our Reconciliation Advent Calendar, and asked for prayers for Bishop Christopher as he addressed the House of Lords on Wednesday during the debate on Syria. Matt Robinson’s talk on ISIS was well attended and the highlights were tweeted out live via the Reconciliation Ministry’s twitter feed.

Carla Crawley has set up an Instagram account for the Cathedral. Simply visit coventry_cathedral to see some amazing images of the Cathedral.

Christine Doyle

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
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