

CCN Newsletter

December/January 2023/24

Healing the Wounds of History
Learning to live with Difference and Celebrate Diversity
Building a Culture of Justice and Peace

 **Thank you to all our partners across the CCN, ICONS and Together for Hope for their support this year, and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.** 

Congratulations to Oliver Schuegraf, Chair of the German CCN Board on his appointment as Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Landeskirche Schaumburg-Lippe (LKSL), which he'll begin in May 2024. Read more [here](#). We wish him all the very best, and look forward to continuing to work with him on the CCN International Board.



...And likewise to Bishop Christopher

We said goodbye to Bishop Christopher, Bishop of Coventry, in November, just ahead of his move to take up the role of Dean of the King's Free Chapel of St George, Windsor Castle. Our very best wishes to him, and welcome to Bishop Ruth Worsley, Acting Diocesan Bishop during the vacancy. Read about his farewell service at Coventry Cathedral last month [here](#).

This year's new partners

We've been so pleased to welcome two new church partners from Germany; three from the UK - a hospital chaplaincy team, a memorial church and a retreat centre; and our first partner from Portugal, the Maria de Magdala Mission! See a little more overleaf.

Coventry CCN pilgrimage

We loved having pilgrims from Bruchsal, Stutensee and Weingarten with us on our October pilgrimage this year, and the smaller group - especially following our much larger international gathering in May and pilgrimage with our Hamburg visitors in September - allowed for a more intimate structure as well as some visits away from Coventry as part of the programme. Pictured here the visit to Southwark Cathedral with Andrew Viner, en route home to Germany by train. Dates for [next year's pilgrimages](#) are 21-24 May and 22-25 October - do contact Alice if interested in attending.



Join other partners once a month on Zoom to pray the Litany of Reconciliation - all welcome!

- On the first Friday of the month at midday CET, led by our German partners :
<https://zoom.us/j/881976123?pwd=MVFnQ1Rxb0Y2Y0dZnWcrT2M1V01oQT09>
Meeting ID: 881 976 123 Password: 637997
- On the third Tuesday of the month at midday US EST, led by our North American partners :
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82501462596?pwd=Q1ZmNjNGZmhuekl0Rld1RTVPT1liUT09>
Meeting ID: 825 0146 2596 Passcode: 746888

Contact us at: alice.farnhill@coventry.anglican.org
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/community-of-the-cross-of-nails>
<https://www.facebook.com/CCNCoventry/>

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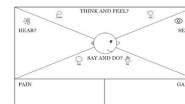
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News from ICONS (International Cross of Nails Schools)

This month the ICONS network has welcomed its fourth new school this year - St Andrew's Infant School, Coventry. St Andrew's School understand that reconciliation is not just about saying sorry and learning to forgive one another but also about having 'kind hands and kind feet'; an encouragement to us all to consider where our peace-making feet might take us and what we could craft with peace-loving hands.

At the ICONS network meeting we looked at a picture book called The Journey by Francesca Sanna, about the journey made by refugees to a new home in a new country and all the fears and challenges they must face along the way. It helps show children refugees are just families like their own who have been displaced by war and poverty. The goal is to foster empathy in the pupils. There is a lesson plan and further resources that can be purchased on the Cathedral website. [The Journey Lesson Bundle](#)



- Learning Objectives
- Differentiation
- Plenary activities
- Assessment Opportunities
- Printables
- Powerpoint

For more information, take a look at the ICONS-specific newsletter [here](#) or email: Jessica.Weale@Coventry.Anglican.org

Keep up with us through our social media and our website:

[ICONS Facebook](#)
[ICONS Instagram](#)
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/icon-schools>

News from Together for Hope

Together for Hope, the CCN's 'little sister' network, is a community of groups from across the spectrum of beliefs, following the same three guiding principles and the model set by the CCN.

Our newest partner, [the Ammerdown Centre](#), deep in the Somerset countryside, has had a fantastic year celebrating their 50th anniversary, culminating in a very well-attended talk from Mpho Tutu in early November (right).



We wish Christine Clinch farewell as Lead Manager this month, with our very best wishes for the future, Christine!

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/together-for-hope>

<https://www.facebook.com/CovTforH/>



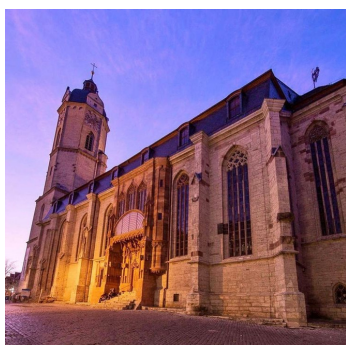
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So you've joined the CCN: what next?

A big welcome to six new partners into the CCN this year, and four new ICON Schools! So, what next, once you've joined the network? Our Head of Reconciliation and Education, Emma Griffiths, has put together a number of ideas to help partners and groups in their thinking, ranging from maintaining contact through regional board networks, and forming specific local groups to lead on ideas, to re-creating wording of the Litany relevant to your partner situation. We shared an early draft to allow some feedback at our international gathering in May, and hope this will be helpful to groups and communities seeking to maintain their commitment and momentum in the years beyond gaining their Cross of Nails. You can find and download the toolkit on our website [here](#).



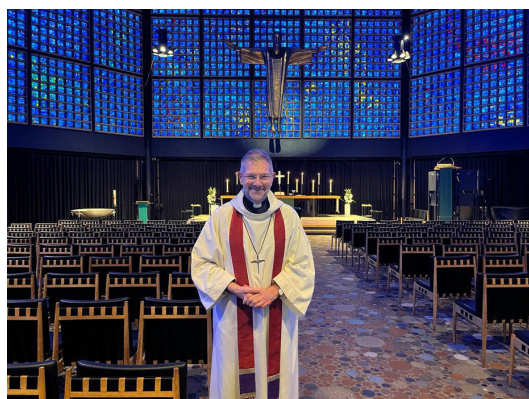
Clockwise from top left: the Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirchengemeinde Jena, Germany; the Ammerdown Retreat Centre in England; Braunschweig Cathedral, Germany; Hull University Teaching Hospitals Chaplaincy, England; the Maria de Magdala Mission, Portugal, and St Mary's, Warren, Wales.



Thought for the Month December 2023

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In this month of Advent, we pray for light in our darkness.



Our prayers are with all caught up in the terrible conflict in Gaza and Israel. The prayer, 'Father Forgive' has never been more pertinent: there is a need for forgiveness on all sides, and for those, including those who have played a part in creating the fractured history of Israel Palestine.

We gathered in the Cathedral in the early days of the conflict with those from many faith traditions (picture of the different faith and community leaders below), each asking for God's peace, praying for the release of hostages, for the injured and bereaved, and for a way forward for all. We gathered around the Kiel Globe candlestand, made in memory of those who died in the July 7th 2005 tube bombings -both victims and perpetrators.

To pray for peace is vital – but it is also vital to pray for peace with justice. This gives a real edge to our prayers – and reflects the commitment made at the CCN gathering in May 2023 to include 'justice' in the third of our CCN priorities. We do not simply want an end to the fighting, and for nothing else to change.

It has been rightly said that the October 7th attacks did not emerge from a vacuum. It should also be remembered that the response to those attacks did not happen out of a vacuum. All those caught up in this war are acting from the injustices of history. A lasting peace needs to take account of those injustices. Of course, it's not in any way easy to know how to address the injustices of the Nakba, or the Holocaust; indeed, some would say it was impossible. But there has to be a way, and as Christians we believe in a God who can bring new life out of the worst devastation.

This, in small part, is our Coventry story – of people who turned to God to lead them from violent and destructive conflict on to the path of reconciliation. That path begins with the prayer, Father Forgive. And it is a path where we will find the light of Christ to illuminate our way.

**The Very Reverend John Witcombe,
Dean of Coventry**

**Coventry Cathedral yesterday released a
statement on the conflict: read it [here](#).**

**Please continue to pray for our partners – churches, peace
charities and ICON schools – in Jerusalem and the West
Bank this winter.**



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