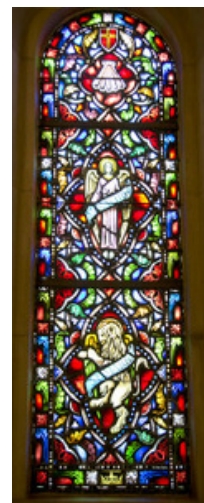


Welcome to St Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport, Louisiana

As Dean John prepares to travel to welcome our first new CCN partner this year on 10th March, Dean Alston Johnson shares a little of St Mark's reconciliation work:

"Our strongest connection is with a group called Community Renewal International. St Mark's was one of the founding groups, and we continue to support and participate in their local efforts. Community Renewal is focused primarily on creating neighborhood communities and spaces that will both strengthen local communities, as well as create relationships across economic disparities and cultural differences. We have also joined other congregations in Shreveport with an initiative called Love Your Neighbour. Again, although locally based, it does invite, or require, that folks work together toward a common purpose, who otherwise would not cross paths in our community."

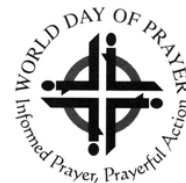
"I am hoping that the Community of the Cross of Nails, both its history as well as its current practice, will both inspire and instruct us. Having reconciliation and community outreach so intimately joined with the prayers and practice of the faith is something that we are lacking. My sense is that the CCN has much to share with us."



"I beg you, bear one another with love"

As we go to press it is Women's World Day of Prayer on March 1st, themed this year around Ephesians 4: 1 – 6. Written by a group of Palestinian Christian women before the current conflict, as has often happened before, the Day has been overtaken by a tragic set of events.

Join world leaders, relief workers, medical teams and all those praying about the situation, for an end to the killing, and for the wisdom to build a lasting peace. [World Day of Prayer resources here](#)



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=Q1ZmNjNGZmhuekiORld1RTVPT1liUT09>
Meeting ID: 825 0146 2596 Passcode: 746888

Contact us at:

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

Spend a year at Coventry Cathedral!

North American volunteer internship



Living and working alongside our teams Gaining a deeper understanding of reconciliation

Are you...

- In your 20s and a USA or Canada national
- Available from September 2024 for 9-12 months
- A practising Christian
- Able to fund your own travel to & from the UK
- Good at working on your own, brilliant at working within teams and taking on new ideas?

Do you have...

- A keen interest in peacemaking and reconciliation, and ideally a degree in an appropriate discipline (e.g. Theology, International Relations, Politics, Public Policy, Peace or Conflict Studies, Development Studies)
- Good skills in social media and elementary film-editing
- Good wider communication skills, written and orally, to a variety of audiences?

If so, we'd love to hear from you!

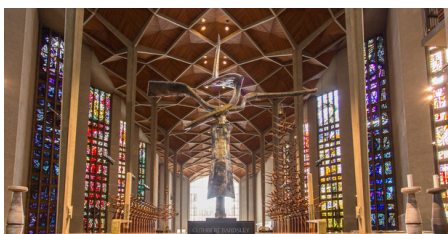
Apply by **April 30th 2024** for this September



The Cathedral will provide:

- Accommodation : free on site in a shared flat, with private study bedrooms
- Moderate living expenses
- A unique experience that will change your perspective and approach!

More information [here](#)



Coventry Cathedral Friends' newsletter

Are you interested in receiving news, both formal and informal about Coventry Cathedral? The Cathedral Friends would be very happy to add CCN partners and those connected to them, if so: contact Martin R. Williams at mrwlegal@aol.com to be added to the distribution list.



CCN Newsletter

March 2024

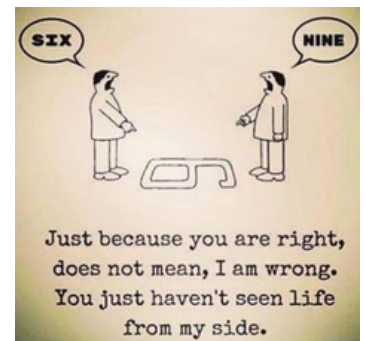
Healing the Wounds of History
Learning to live with Difference and Celebrate Diversity
Building a Culture of Justice and Peace

News from ICONS (International Cross of Nails Schools)

Last month Emma spent time with high school pupils aged 17 & 18 as they prepared themselves for going off to university. The theme for the programme was 'Conflict Resolution'; in particular considering if conflict is natural and can be healthy, that conflict resolution is not a moment but a continuum, and that conflict resolution involves vulnerability.

We explored Lederach's work on Truth, Mercy, Justice and Peace, with a time of reflection: Of these words, which am I most comfortable with in personal conflict resolution? Which of these words do I give least time and attention to in any resolution? How might I practice giving more space to it?

Where's the friendship resilient enough for me to practice the lost art of disagreeing agreeably?



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>

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. But what are the main day to day differences between the two communities? Perhaps the most obvious is the regular prayer or reading, in place of the Litany of Reconciliation:

A Pledge for Transformation

For love, which heals wounds,
we will stand.

For generosity, which opens space for hope,
we will stand.

For nurturing, which builds a culture of peace,
we will stand.

For compassion, which seeks the best for all,
we will stand.

For respect, which enables us to love with difference,
we will stand.

For humility, which allows healthy relationships with others,
we will stand.

Together for hope,
we will stand.

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

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

Thought for the Month March 2024

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

As the Difference Course for Schools launches, Lou Peet, Chaplain of Blue Coat Church of England School and Music College, Coventry and Ordinand in the Church of England, shares why she's inspired by young people and how the principles of peace and reconciliation can be transformative for them and their communities. This is an edited extract; read the full article [here](#).

We're an International Cross of Nails (ICON) school. This is a network of primary and secondary schools around the world that have introduced the principles of peace, forgiveness, conflict transformation, and reconciliation into their school communities. I was part of the team that wrote Difference for Secondary Schools and piloted the resource. Personally, the process grounded me, especially in the Crossing Divides session – this looks at our attitudes and behaviours and how they often build barriers between us and other people. For example, when young people react and respond to each other in unpleasant ways, this can be due to several factors. This can include their current level of brain and emotional development, what they see and hear at home, and what they see and participate in in media. Sometimes their responses build more barriers than there needs to be – Difference looks at these.

difference.

“We asked the kids to write on Post-it notes their behaviours when they respond to people if there's a conflict or if they don't like them. We stuck these on the window to form a 'brick wall'. Then I asked: “Can you see the person on the other side?” Can they see you? “No, they only see your behaviour.” It was transformative to peel off each post-it one by one, being able to see little by little through the wall and revealing more of the person on the other side. This was a significant moment for us.”

Difference made me realize how conscious young people are of the concept of being reconciled together and functioning well as a community: they know there are fractures within school, society, and community groups that they are part of. This can make a huge difference to them as they are developing, and learning to become adults. Therefore, I think Difference is important for young people across the board. Difference for schools is more practical and has different types of activities than PSHE classes, collective worship, and Religious Education because of the links it has. It was also physical and reflective which the group enjoyed.

Young people's mental health and resilience, so impacted in the Covid-19 pandemic, is important because it affects how they take feedback, friendships and their involvement in sports or clubs. Without resilience and self-esteem, things can fall apart emotionally. Difference for secondary schools is nicely timed because it speaks to all these things. It deals with how we recognize and deal with conflict, personally and externally. During the piloting, we unpacked the three Difference habits: Be Curious, Be Present, and Reimagine. If we take those habits to heart, they have the power to change how we perceive ourselves and the world around us.

The free six-session course explores important themes including human flourishing, hope, respect and living well together. Students participating in this programme will gain the tools and skills to cross divides, navigate disagreement and grow inclusive and welcoming school communities.

More information: <https://difference.rln.global/secondaryschools/>