

CCN Newsletter November 2025

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

Welcome, our newest German partners!

New partners (L-R) the Congregation of St Paul's in Frankfurt; the congregation of Stutensee-Weingarten, and the Martinskirche Kassel, receiving their Crosses of Nails from Canon Kate late last month.

Read a little about her visits on page 5.







Season of Reconciliation begins

November is our special focus month on reconciliation at Coventry: find information about our Coventry Blitz 85th anniversary commemmorations on Friday 14th November <u>here</u>, this year joined by friends from far and wide including some of our CCN pilgrimage visitors here with us in the lead-up to the day, and with a live link to our German CCN partners assembling in Muenster.

Opportunities to connect with others monthly on Zoom to pray the Litany of Reconciliation: all welcome!

On the first Friday of the month at midday Central European Time, led by our UK & Ireland partners: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88484456943?pwd=ZJNsti3fZPa4Qk3sbHrgKR3dbt4A2f.1 Meeting ID: 884 8445 6943 Passcode: 688379

On the third Wednesday of the month (note recent day change) at midday US EST, led by our North American partners: https://zoom.us/j/91751768631?pwd=9gQO2FYvieOHiWMqgeB6enWeFt68Vs.1

Meeting ID: 917 5176 8631 Passcode: 896595

Contact us at:

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

Read this and earlier newsletters here

Access the Cathedral's recent sermons here.









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Welcome to our new volunteer interns!

We're really happy to have Sylvia, Pia and Katrina with us as our new volunteer interns until August next year: Katrina joins us direct from her home in Ohio, USA, and Sylvia and Pia, both from southern Germany, coming to us via the young people's international placement agency ARSP.

Pia and Sylvia are working mainly with our events and schools teams, and Katrina with the CCN and on social media. All will be valuable backup with our CCN pilgrimages and other visits as well, and you'll be able to see them livestreamed on Facebook leading the midday Litany in due course on certain weekdays.

We wish last year's interns Alwine, Constanze and Sophia all the very best after their fabulous year with us up until August 2025, and hope they are back to visit soon!



Canon Kate at the Deaconess Hospital in Dresden (below) for their 60th anniversary in September, which also involved many volunteers from the groundbreaking young people's exchange between Dresden and Coventry in the 1960s. Right: visiting the Frauenkirche.



Hon Canon Sacha Slavik (centre) attending the 250th anniversary of the inauguration of the Ludwigskirche in Saarbruecken, Germany













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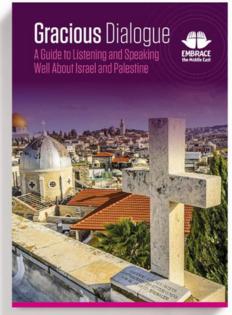


A new partner for Together for Hope!

We welcomed our newest partner, South Asian Heritage Month, to <u>Together for Hope</u> back in August, at a poetry and reflection event at the Cathedral held to remember Partition Commemmoration Day. We look forward to so many good things in our new partnership with this major annual UK-wide celebration of South Asian cultures, histories, and communities, with plans already for next year.

Gracious Dialogue resource to help churches and their communities navigate the Middle East conflict

Gracious Dialogue: A Guide to Listening and Speaking Well About Israel and Palestine, is a 4-week introductory resource designed to help churches and small groups navigate difficult questions and help people see through another's eyes, created by the charity Embrace the Middle East and Revd Su McClellan, Associate Minister at Coventry Cathedral. Now available to purchase here, and for more information read here.



Embrace the Middle East joins the CCN on Sunday 7th December at a special Advent Evensong at Coventry Cathedral at 4pm. All are very welcome to come along to support, and to get to know one another better – please let us know if you'd like to join us at 3pm for tea and mince pies before Evensong itself. We'll be very pleased to see you!









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ICONS news...



We welcomed a new school into the ICONS family in September: St Peter at Gowts Primary School in Lincolnshire, the UK. Located in a deprived area of the city, the school presented an impressive portfolio of initiatives that promote flourishing, alongside examples of how pupils are encouraged to use the language of reconciliation and forgiveness. Their curriculum is values-based, inspired by the philosophy of Dr Neil Hawkes, founder of Values-based Education (VbE):

"Our world so desperately needs hope. Values-based Education is bringing this hope, by creating a transformational movement that has the potential to transform education and society, so that we can live in peace and harmony with each other; ensuring the sustainability of our planet."

The school embraces values such as honesty, hope, responsibility, justice, friendship, forgiveness, wisdom, and self-belief. They also run an annual Family Values Challenge, encouraging families to engage with these values at home and in the community. One particularly creative initiative is their use of the school's perimeter fence, located in the heart of a diverse housing estate. The fence serves as a display space to celebrate the community's rich cultural and religious diversity. Though a Christian school, they regularly highlight festivals such as Eid and other faith celebrations, reflecting their inclusive ethos. Might other CCN partners might find this a useful idea? Do let us know if it sparks ideas.

Many congratulations to Ann Farr!

Ann is this year's joint winner of the Wilson-Hinks Award, set up by Week of Prayer for World Peace and which recognises significant contributions to peace, justice and reconciliation - richly deserved! Read more <u>here</u>.

Looking ahead to 2026:

Two UK events for your diaries; more information to follow:

- Practical Peacemaking: from Global to Local, at Coventry Cathedral on 22-23 April 2026, organised jointly by the CCN and TSSF
- **Healing from Conflict**, in Milton Keynes, 24-26 April 2026, organised by the APF, Chips, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Pax Christi.









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Three Cross of Nails presentations in six days, by Canon Kate Massey

It was an incredible privilege to present Crosses of Nails to three new partners in Kassel, Frankfurt and Stutensee-Weingarten, Germany, this month.

Kate was joined by Richard Parker from Coventry Cathedral and Antje Biller and Niels Fassbender from the German Community of the Cross of Nails to present a Cross of Nails to the Martinskirche in Kassel. The Dean, Dr Michael Glöckner, (pictured right with Kate and Richard) supported by the Bishop, Dr Hoffman, is keen for the Martinskirche to become a centre for reconciliation. The presentation took place as part of the city's annual service to commemorate the bombing of Kassel on 22nd October 1943. It was a moving and beautiful event during which the church's Osanna Bell rang out across the city.



In Frankfurt, Kate had the joy of meeting students from the city's Europaschule to tell them the story of Coventry Cathedral and to discuss with them what reconciliation might look like in today's world. Then she, Richard Parker, Antje Biller and Niels Fassbender were joined by Christian Ross to present a Cross of Nails to the Congregation of St Paul's who worship in the beautiful Old St Nicholas Church in the centre of Frankfurt. Their important work of remembrance, of supporting democracy and in celebrating diversity was very inspiring. It was another service full of beauty, solemnity and hope as they committed themselves to the work of peace.

Finally, Kate travelled to Stutensee-Weingarten, where the congregation had prepared an evening of English and German songs interspersed with fascinating interviews about different aspects of peace and reconciliation. The following day, Kate and Christian had the privilege of presenting a Cross of Nails to the congregations of Stutensee-Weingarten. It was another completely different, but incredibly special service, during which – inspired by a theatre performance that he had seen at Coventry Cathedral while on pilgrimage – Jöerg Seiter performed a monologue based on John 5.

It was a remarkable week of friendship, hope and encouragement, and the CCN is blessed to have these three wonderful new partners.



In early September we welcomed the Dean and representatives from Bergen Cathedral community to Coventry to receive a second, larger Cross of Nails as well as a third for use in processions and to pass between the six churches that make up the Cathedral's ministry. It was so good to spend time together, last possible when they originally joined in early 2020.





