



COMMUNITY OF THE
CROSS OF NAILS
AT COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

GROWING TOGETHER IN HOPE



Sharing TOGETHER

The Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) is a Christian network of churches and organisations who, drawn together by the story of Coventry Cathedral, share a common commitment to work and pray for peace, justice and reconciliation through:

- Healing the wounds of history
- Learning to live with difference and celebrate diversity
- Building a culture of peace

Many contemporary conflicts have deep roots in past wrongs. Our CCN Partners nurture real hope amongst hurting and wounded people and communities.

Our present requires new patterns of community where we learn how to live together with deep differences and celebrate the rich diversity that God has created in humanity.

The most fundamental threat to the future of us all is the collective failure of moral imagination to find ways to resolve our differences and disputes without recourse to violence.

CCN Partners engage with the challenges faced by many communities where a just and inclusive society is crucial for stability and peace. As a network of ordinary people we work to learn the things that make for peace and the skills to seek peace and pursue it in our relationships.





Forgiving TOGETHER

Following the destruction of Coventry Cathedral during the bombing of the city in November 1940, Provost Dick Howard made a commitment not to call for revenge, but to forgive and be reconciled.

He declared that when the war was over we should work with those who had become our enemies 'to build a kinder, more Christ-like world.'

The words 'Father Forgive' were inscribed on the wall of the ruined chancel as a confession of the common human need for God's mercy.

Two charred beams which fell in the shape of a cross were bound and placed behind an altar of rubble.

Three of the medieval roof nails were formed into a cross.

The presentation of a Cross of Nails to churches in German cities such as Kiel, Dresden and Berlin symbolised peace and the trust and partnership that developed.

By the 1970s this vision of transforming enemies into friends had spread to other areas of conflict, and the Community of the Cross of Nails was formed in 1974.

Today the Coventry Cross of Nails is an inspirational global symbol of forgiveness and reconciliation.



Working TOGETHER

Drawn together by the Coventry story, CCN Partners include churches and community groups, as well as peacebuilding and reconciliation agencies.

They are located wherever Christian people have a heart and a need to pursue reconciliation: a global network making a difference in the local context.

Their work is demanding and diverse. It may focus on issues of cultural or personal identity, politics, race, religion, economics or the environment.

Some directly address war and violent conflict or post-conflict restoration and healing. Others tend to the scars of trauma and personal animosity.

Their ministry may have broad and far-reaching, national or regional consequences. All make a significant difference to local communities and individual people's lives.

Together CCN Partners are committed to learning from and supporting each other – practically and prayerfully – in their different contexts around the world.

ICONS, International Cross of Nails Schools, connects schools together and provides reconciliation learning resources for young people to explore creatively issues of justice, peace and reconciliation.

Please get in touch with our CCN Project Officer to become involved at ccn@coventrycathedral.org.uk





Hoping TOGETHER

Together for Hope is the sister organisation to the Community of the Cross of Nails which is open to partners of other faiths, or of no faith.

Inspired by Coventry's story of hope, forgiveness and reconciliation, our partners all share a commitment to pursuing peace and reconciliation in their own context.

Together for Hope is a relational network facilitated by Coventry Cathedral's reconciliation team.

Together for Hope is a network of partners who are secular or faith-based organisations, drawn together by the story of Coventry Cathedral, and have an on-going relationship with the Cathedral.

Partners in Together for Hope share a common commitment to work for peace, justice and reconciliation. They nurture this among the network through mutual support, fellowship and occasional joint action.





COVENTRY
CATHEDRAL

Praying TOGETHER

On Friday at noon CCN Partners are invited to set aside a few moments to pray for our world and to say the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation.

Written in 1958 by Canon Joseph Poole, it invites us to reflect on those forces within us and at work in our communities which give rise to violence and division.

Using the simple response now carved on the chancel of the Cathedral ruins, *Father Forgive*, the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation is said in the new Cathedral each day at noon and on Friday in the Cathedral ruins.

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, *Father Forgive*.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own, *Father Forgive*.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth, *Father Forgive*.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, *Father Forgive*.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee, *Father Forgive*.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children, *Father Forgive*.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God, *Father Forgive*.

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.



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