

Welcome, St Mark's Cathedral, Shreveport, Louisiana!

Pictured right is Dean John with Dean Alston Johnson (left) and Father Paul Martin (right) following the presentation of a Cross of Nails to St Mark's Cathedral in the American south on March 10th. St Mark's reconciliation work includes supporting those escaping human trafficking, feeding the hungry in their community and working to restore neighbourhoods. Father Martin was himself ordained in Coventry Cathedral in 1975.

Immediately prior to this, Dean John attended the Episcopal Parishes' Network conference in Houston, Texas, to spread the word about Coventry Cathedral and the CCN (lower right) - our enormous thanks to Sandra Alagona from Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lookout Mountain for all her help during the event!



... and the Diocese of Huron, on 28th April



Later this month we look forward to welcoming our first Diocesan partner in Canada to the CCN. The diocese is deeply involved, as are all our Canadian partners, in healing the wounds of history, living with difference and diversity and building a culture of justice and peace around the Church's historic treatment of First Nations communities. Learn more about, or refresh your memory about the Anglican Church of Canada's journey of reconciliation in this area [here](#).

... and on May 15th: Duke Divinity School, North Carolina

Dean John looks forward to being at Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina, later in May to present a Cross of Nails as they join us in the CCN, and to speak at their [Summer Institute for Reconciliation](#) in the following days, to which all are very welcome.

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

- On the first Friday of the month at 11am UK time, led from May 2024 by our UK & Ireland partners :
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/6527541231?pwd=uAgknkerTxUiC4pvYy3jiEWbDtNLO.1&omn=82688331914>
Meeting ID: 652 754 1231 Passcode: 2Cor518

- 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>

Coventry Cathedral's new Canon for Worship and Welcome

We're so very thrilled that the Revd Nitano Muller is to join the Cathedral as our new Canon for Worship and Welcome in June! Currently serving as Rector of St. Peter's Church, Kleinvlei, False Bay Diocese in South Africa, Nitano trained for ministry at the College of the Transfiguration, Makhanda, a CCN partner.

Delene Mark, our lead partner in South Africa, writes: "The CCN partners in South Africa are delighted to see the appointment of Rev Nitano Muller, a son of Africa, at Coventry Cathedral. On behalf of the SA CCN board we pray for his ministry and ask God's blessings over him during his time of work and service at Coventry Cathedral."

Read more about Nitano as he prepares to join us [here](#).



News from ICONS (International Cross of Nails Schools)

During these last few weeks we have enjoyed hosting an ICONS Ambassadors day with two schools – Lagan College, Belfast, Northern Ireland and King Henry VIII School Coventry. Despite a 5am start for the pupils from Belfast they enjoyed a tour of the two cathedrals and engaged in peace building workshops. They left considering the difference between Destructive Consent and Constructive Dissent.



Lagan College is an integrated college located in South Belfast. It was founded in 1981 by parents who wanted their Catholic and Protestant children to be educated together, at a time when the people of Belfast and the general school system was generally divided by faith. The project was controversial and struggled with getting public support, but the school first opened for 28 students and grew to become very sought-after. Today Lagan College is known for its work on reconciliation and all-faith inclusion.

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>

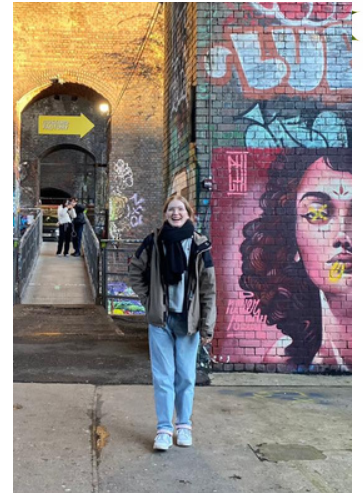
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/together-for-hope>

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

Updates from our Cathedral volunteer interns

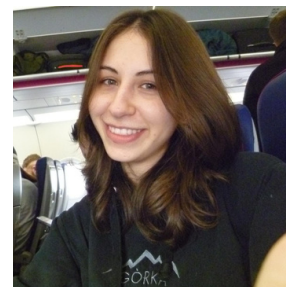
One of the things our coordinator tried to prepare us for on the very first seminar before starting this voluntary internship was, how hard and long the winter months in the UK can be. They were cold and wet, yes, but I have to say living in Coventry these last months was overall just fun. I didn't have time to care much about the weather, because I am so occupied with exploring the city, spending time with the amazing people I work with in the Cathedral and met elsewhere, who are for sure my personal highlight of the internship so far, and trying to take in as much of what is happening in the Cathedral as possible. I don't know where these past seven months went, but for my remaining time here I am just very excited to keep helping the events and the CCN team, to enjoy having found my little routines and favorite things to do and to maybe explore some more parts of the country, hopefully also on my upcoming CCN-trip.

Lea Rischmüller



When I recall my arrival, it feels like it was yesterday, yet I am already halfway through. Finding myself comfortable in new surroundings made me get into a routine and nothing seems to scare me anymore. My main highlight would be a classical concert in the Cathedral nave. Hearing a Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" made me go back in time and reminded me of home. I have also learned some new dance moves. Looking forward makes me realize that time flies and some things will end soon, but hopefully some will last forever.

Blanka Słońska



Coventry Cathedral North American volunteer internship



Applications are open for a young US or Canadian national who would like to spend a year with us at Coventry Cathedral as a volunteer intern from this fall/winter 2024. Supported by our USA CCN partner board, and working closely with the Community of the Cross of Nails, alongside supporting our overall ministry and welcome, this is a unique year in a very special place, that will challenge and inspire you!

More information about applicant eligibility [here](#) or drop us [an email](#) for a conversation. We look forward to hearing from you!

Contact us at:

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Thought for the Month April 2024

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

Praying for Resolution in the Holy Land

"Out of the depth I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice.. Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications." (Psalm 132.1)

How many times have we prayed for God to hear us since the appalling Hamas attacks of October 7th? How many times have we prayed for the release of the hostages held by them? For an end to the overwhelming bombing of Gaza, which has killed mostly women and children? For an end to the siege which has resulted in 2 million people facing the threat of imminent famine? For a stick to be placed in the spokes of rising anti-Semitic and Islamophobic attacks beyond the borders of Israel and Palestine?

At the moment the fog of war makes it almost impossible to imagine a future beyond the horrors of the current conflict. Many of the people I meet, as I go about my work for Embrace the Middle East, have a view on how the longstanding Israeli/ Palestinian conflict should be resolved. At Embrace we don't hold a position on what the future of the land we call holy should look like. We are clear that it is a matter for those who call Israel and Palestine home. However, that does not mean that each of us does not have a part to play in healing the wounds of history, learning to live with difference, celebrating diversity and building a culture of justice and peace.

For both Palestinians and Israeli Jews, the wounds of history are deep and in some cases still open and festering. Before healing can begin we have to stop infection. How those of us who surround the conflict, but are not part of it, behave plays a significant part in feeding or stopping contagion. Do our actions form a healing salve, or do they open the wounds wider?

In a soundbite culture that gives us limited characters with which to express an opinion, holding the space for difference and diversity is no easy task. It is an act of resistance against forces that insist on binary divisions which in the end will only result in a zero sum game. Both the CCN and Embrace have the privilege of partnering with Musalaha, the reconciliation organization working in Israel and Palestine to bring Israelis and Palestinians together to co resist the systemic injustice that results in power imbalance and disenfranchisement.

In the current context this work has become even more urgent as the only hope for lasting peace is a culture of justice that recognizes the Imago Dei in every human being. As we continue to cry from the depths of our souls for the people of Israel and Palestine, we need to remember the words of St Teresa of Avila:

"Christ has no body on earth but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good."

In other words, we all have our part to play.



The Revd Su McClellan, Church Engagement Lead at Embrace the Middle East and Curate at Coventry Cathedral