WHY 3 MILLION QUEUED TO SEE THE CATHEDRAL

A new local exhibition about the 1950s, provides a clue as to why the new Coventry Cathedral captured the national imagination and the people’s hopes for the future.

‘Britain in the Fifties: Design and Aspiration’ at Compton Verney, Warwickshire, traces the development of modern design in the 1950’s, from the ‘tonic for the nation’, the austerity Festival of Britain, to the ‘annis mirabilis’ of 1959 ‘you’ve never had it so good’ and the opening of the M1 motorway.

Susannah Walker, the co-curator of the exhibition, writes, “After ten years of austerity and self denial ... there was an optimism in the air: a sense of a new progressive Britain that was going to be a better place for everyone.”

“Coventry Cathedral was the lasting monument of the festival style.”

The exhibition explores the history of post-war design through the experiences of the average British couple, and lasts until 2 October.

There’s also a complementary exhibition ‘BBC Faces of Comedy’ to mark 60 fabulous years of the TV sitcom.

Editor’s Note: Basil Spence was commissioned to design the Sea and Ships Pavilion (shown above between the Skylon and the Dome of Discovery) for the Festival of Britain, before winning the competition to build Coventry Cathedral, ‘the chief building of Britain’s post-war reconstruction’
A VERY ENGLISH PARTNERSHIP

The Friends are to sponsor the new English Reconciliation Intern in the coming year

The Reverend Canon Dr Sarah Hills, Director of Reconciliation Ministry, has announced that Emma Pritchard will be joining the Reconciliation Team in September.

Emma studied English at the University of Oxford and then gained an MA in Conflict Resolution from the University of Bradford. Her master’s thesis, focused on how the interpretation, and teaching, of history, influences reconciliation between individuals and peoples.

Last year she spent three months in Palestine, as an Ecumenical Accompanier, reporting on human rights abuses and she was previously an Intern with Alliance for Peace, in Nepal.

Emma is currently a Communications Officer, for the Church of England’s Ministry Division, in Church House, London. She will be working alongside two other Interns, one from Germany, the other from the United States.

During their 12 month long secondeaments, the Interns will help to develop the 200 strong world-wide Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) and also support the on-going Ministry of Reconciliation.”

Andrew Paine, the Chairman of the Friends said that, “We hope that, as the English Intern, Emma will be able to keep the Friends briefed on the work of the Reconciliation Department and the Community of the Cross of Nails, through personal contacts, presentations, and articles in the Friends communications. In addition, we very much hope to take advantage of her communication skills, especially using social media. That will be a real bonus for us.”
ARCHBISHOP ANNOUNCES NEW ADVISOR

Mrs. Sarah Snyder the new Coventry based Archbishop’s Advisor for reconciliations

The Archbishop of Canterbury has announced the appointment of Sarah Snyder as his new advisor for reconciliation. She takes over from Canon David Porter who moved into his new role as chief of staff and strategy to the Archbishop at the beginning of May.

Sarah will commence work in September. She will be part of the senior team at Lambeth Palace while also being based at Coventry Cathedral, where Archbishop Justin’s reconciliation ministry has been established since its inception. Her role will have a particular emphasis on supporting the Church in contexts of violent conflict or post-conflict and helping the Church to be an agent of reconciliation and conflict-transformation.

Sarah originally studied Anthropology at Cambridge and worked with nomadic groups in Kenya (the Maasai) and the Sahara desert (the Tuareg). She joined BBC Television as a documentary producer, before retraining in theology, specialising in Muslim-Christian relations.

A theologian who specialises in Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations, Sarah brings wide-ranging international experience of peace building and dialogue. She has worked for many years to promote faith-based reconciliation. A trained mediator, she has experience both of working with communities and with senior religious leaders.

Sarah is founding director of the Rose Castle Foundation, an international centre of reconciliation, based in Cumbria, offering a safe space in which to address misunderstanding, particularly those of different religious traditions.

She also collaborates with St Ethelburga’s Centre for Reconciliation and Peace in the City of London. It is situated in a church destroyed by a bomb in 1993, and is like Coventry Cathedral, a powerful symbol of hope in the midst of conflict.

Speaking about the appointment, Archbishop Justin said: “I am grateful for the continued partnership with Coventry Cathedral where my reconciliation ministry will continue to be based. Events in recent weeks remind us that that reconciliation is more of a priority than ever – this is the hope we offer in the good news of Jesus.”
John Piper's interest in churches began in his youth: by the age of 14, chiefly with the help of a bicycle, he had visited every church in Surrey.

This interest was revived in the late 1930s when he met John Betjeman and his long-standing commitment, as photographer and writer, to the Shell County guides began.

But churches, however, ancient are not dead objects but constantly facing new needs, and this led Piper to think more about the relationship between the artist and the church.

Then in the 1950s he began designing stained glass, for a whole array of buildings, from a tiny memorial chapel at Windsor to two major modern cathedrals.

In a couple of instances, when working for two Cambridge colleges, he found himself part of a heated controversy. In a secular world, and in a modern college dedicated primarily to science and technology, wasn’t the notion of the sacred mere superstition?

Frances Spalding is an art historian, biographer and critic. She is a specialist on twentieth-century British Art, and her books include 'John Piper, Myfanwy Piper: Lives in Art', published in 2009 but still available in paperback.

She taught for fifteen years at Newcastle University where she became Professor of Art History, and for the last year she has been The Editor of the Burlington Magazine. She is currently writing a book on art between the wars.

Priority booking for the Friends on the sign up sheet on the Community Table, or email chairman@friendsofcoventrycathedral.org.uk

BE RECOGNISED

The Friends have just been conducting an inventory of our stock of goods for sale. We have discovered a box of Friends’ enamel pin lapel badges (1.8 cm x 1.2 cm).

They will be available to purchase from our 'shop' at the AGM for £5.00 each - whilst stocks last.
NEW MEMBERS EVENT

John Oliver was among our 40 guests at the successful New Members Event (the Class of 2015/16) held in the Cathedral last month. He told us that, during his apprenticeship at The Lanchester College of Technology, he had helped to make both the communion table in the Chapel of Industry (as it used to be called) and had worked on the High Altar. He had as a result been invited to attend the Consecration.

REPAIRS SLATED FOR CHAPEL OF UNITY

The Cathedral is will receive £870,000 from the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repair Fund, administered by ChurchCare. This will enable the Cathedral to complete the to removal and replacement of all the exterior stone cladding on the Chapel of Unity. This will ensure a full and lasting repair, and make this unique space watertight. It will also mean, that after many years, the unsightly safety netting can be removed from the exterior.
The release of the Church of England ministry statistics last month, showed an ageing crisis amongst the clergy, with a quarter being over 60 and only 13% under 40.

These statistics are both a cause for concern and also raise the question: ‘How do we encourage more young people to be involved in ministry?’

The Diocese of Coventry has, for sometime, been focusing on significantly increasing the number of disciples under 40. In June 2015 the diocese was awarded £638,000 by the Church Commissioners to set up the Acceler8 project. The aim was to encourage churches across the diocese to deliver the Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Growing Churches, which would then attract and inspire younger congregation members.

Over the past year Acceler8 has employed nine 20s-30s Development Leaders who are based in parishes across the diocese, which all have high concentrations of residents in their 20s and 30s. Many have witnessed young people come to faith through Alpha courses and several have established mentoring schemes to empower new young leaders.

Highlights from individual churches include, the development of a discipleship gap year called ‘Form’ at Westwood Church, Coventry, a bi-monthly contemporary worship service called ‘Crossover’ at St Anne’s and All Saints, Coventry, a successful 20s -30s Forum and a growing Community Café at St Mary’s, Leamington, and a party on a canal boat for the young adults of St James, Styvechale.

From September 2016, Acceler8 will also be supporting a unique new initiative called ‘The Field Community’. This innovative monastic Christian community of 20-30 year olds, will be based in the village of Charlecote, and led by, Rachel Saum, a new deacon. The community is being formed to encourage the rural church to grow younger and deeper.
Warmest congratulations to **Angie Jones** PA to the Dean and **David Williams** Programme Director for Local Reconciliation, who have just announced their engagement. David served until recently on the Friends Council. We wish them every happiness.

Next month, two stained glass panels designed by **Keith New**, are to be returned to Buckler’s Mead Academy. Keith New was one of the three designers of the Cathedral’s Nave Windows.

We record with sadness the death of **Mrs Jean Andrews** a longstanding member of the Community and of the Friends.

**OUT AND ABOUT**

**A RECONCILIATION STARTER COURSE**

The Cathedral has launched a ‘Reconciliation Associate Programme’. It targets managers in the Private, Public or Voluntary Sectors. They are invited to spend six evenings, one a month between September 2016 and March 2017, thinking though with distinguished speakers, what it means to be committed to practising ‘Peace and Reconciliation’ in the workplace. For more information, contact david.williams@coventrycathedral.org.uk

**EVENTS PROGRAMME 2016**

**Saturday 24 September, 12.00 pm**

The AGM and Lunch, followed by a public Lecture and Tea

‘Sacred or Superstitious? John Piper and the Church’

Professor Frances Spalding CBE FRSL

**Thursday 10 November, 7.30 pm**

‘The architectural legacy and cultural significance of Coventry Cathedral at the start of a new Century’,

Kelley Christ BA MA RIBA Cathedral Architect

**Tuesday 22 November - all day**

Visit to the House of Lords, and time in London, travelling by coach and trains (fully pre-booked with the Houses of Parliament)

With all good wishes and kind regards,

Andrew L Paine

Chairman

Charity Registration Number 1061176