75 ANNIVERSARY OF THE COVENTRY BLITZ

The photographs of the destruction of Coventry Cathedral, on the night of 14 November 1940, made Coventry a worldwide symbol of the horrors of war, just as Provost Howard’s prophetic words ‘Father Forgive’, subsequently defined the Cathedral’s unique mission and ministry of reconciliation. This special e Bulletin highlights the commemorative activities being planned by both the City and the Cathedral, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of that momentous evening.

HAVE YOU SEEN ANY FLARES TONIGHT?

Friendly Monday 9 November at 11.00 am

Mike Bunn, a local historian of the Fire Service, with close links to the new Cathedral will give an illustrated talk, recalling the night of 14th - 15th. November 1940, to mark the 75 Anniversary of that momentous night. It will be a poignant testament and commemoration of sorrow and heroism that changed our City forever. To book your place for what will be popular lecture, sign up on the Community Table or email: welcome@friendsofcoventrycathedral.org.uk
ART IN THE CATHEDRAL

75/70

by Monica Petzal

1 November 2015 – March 2016

This new artwork, designed specifically for Coventry, will be installed during the week commencing 2 November 2015. It is particularly relevant for Coventry and Dresden, for reconciliation and the rising of the new city. At the same time, her work “The Dresden Project” will be on display in the Herbert.

Coventry Dresden Cope and Victim No Resurrection

by Terry Duffy

Early November – March 2016

“The Coventry Dresden Cope”, was produced in two halves as a symbol of unity - where there has been division. His other work, “Victim No Resurrection”, focuses on the citizens of Coventry, and their personal and communal progress, from victim to survivor as well as on the Cathedrals’ symbolic rising from the ashes, as an international centre for reconciliation. The works will be displayed almost opposite one another, to create a dialogue between the two.

Evilution Project

by Roy Ray

November 2015 – March 2016

The Evilution Project (a triptych) is Roy’s response to innocent victims. The centre panel ‘Coventry’, depicts the devastating destruction of the city in 1940. The work will act as memorial to millions of innocent victims. Terry has donated part of the triptych to the Cathedral and it is hoped to display it during November.
STEPPING OFF THE MAP

Friday 13 November

Stepping Off the Map tells one of the hidden stories of the Cold War. Four years after the building of the Berlin Wall, a group of young British men and women crossed through the Iron Curtain. Their mission was to help rebuild a war bombed hospital in Dresden, East Germany.

The project was organised by a man with a vision, the then Provost of Coventry Cathedral, the Very Reverend Provost ‘Bill’ Williams. This new book is account of a unique event in Cold War history. Those who took part recall their experiences and reveal how they were unwittingly caught up in a secret political strategy, aimed at maintaining peace in Europe.

‘Stepping Off the Map’, edited by Merrilyn Thomas, a Cold War historian and an honorary research fellow at University College, London, will be launched at the Cathedral on Friday 13 November, when the Reverend Canon Paul Oestreicher will speak.

Copies of the book can be obtained from the Cathedral Bookshop, or by mail, priced £7.99 plus post and packing, from www.dresdenremembered.com

MOZART REQUIEM

Saturday 14 November

On Saturday 14 November at 7.30 pm in the Cathedral, Saint Michael’s Singers, The Parliament Choir and the English Symphony Orchestra, will perform Mozart’s inspiring Requiem and his sublime Solemn Vespers, to mark the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Coventry Cathedral.

The concert is part of the City’s Peace Festival ‘Rising 15’ and contributes to an important weekend of events for the Cathedral and the City and our links to Dresden.

Ticket prices: £25, £20, or £15 (£2 off for over 60s, and half price for children and students)

Special Friends Ticket Deal

Ticket price: £3 off face value (e.g. £20 for £17) plus reserved seats
Maximum number of reduced-price tickets per Friend: four

Available only through Jill Pacey, 6 Clive Road, Balsall Common, Coventry CV7 7DW 01676 532436 jill.pacey@btinternet.com
## 75th ANNIVERSARY DIARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 7 November</td>
<td>Carmen Funbre (Theatr Buiro Podrozy) in the Cathedral Ruins</td>
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<td>Sunday 8 November</td>
<td>Remembrance Sunday</td>
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<td>Monday 9 November</td>
<td>‘Did you see any flares tonight?’ Mike Bunn recalls the night of 14 November 1940 Cathedral Lecture Room at 11.00 am</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11 November</td>
<td>Start of RISING 15 the Global Peace Forum 11-13 November 2015</td>
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<td><a href="https://rising.org/coventry/">https://rising.org/coventry/</a></td>
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<td>Friday 13 November</td>
<td>Opening to the public of the Monica Petzel exhibition at the Herbert with the art installation at the Cathedral.</td>
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<td>Launch of the new book on the Coventry/Dresden Story: ‘Stepping of the Map’ (invitation only) See article above</td>
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<td>Saturday 14 November</td>
<td>Lecture by Eveline Eaton, from the Dresden Trust at the Herbert Art Gallery.</td>
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<td>Saturday 14 November</td>
<td>Approx. 6.30pm in University Square. Be part of the Human Chain of Light and Peace. Listen to Local Vocals as they sing songs from the 40’s. Hear survivor stories and stand shoulder to shoulder with your neighbour and a host of VIPs to remember the Blitz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 14 November</td>
<td>The Mozart Requiem brought to you by St Michael’s Singers, English Symphony Orchestra and the Parliament Choir. This special concert marks the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Coventry Cathedral. Tickets £25, £20, £15 <a href="http://www.ticketweb.com">www.ticketweb.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 14 November</td>
<td>Launch at the St. Michael’s Singers Concert, of the Limited Edition Prints, of the two John Piper paintings of Coventry Cathedral, the morning after the Blitz.</td>
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<td>Sunday 15th November</td>
<td>10.30am Cathedral Eucharist to commemorate the anniversary of the bombing.</td>
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<td>Sunday 15th November</td>
<td>Join the Lord Mayor and Bishop of Coventry for a special Civic Service of Commemoration to mark the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Coventry at 7.00 pm. Please be seated by 6.45pm.</td>
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JOHN PIPER: 75 YEARS

Exhibition at the Herbert: Friday 13 November 2015 to Sunday 7 February 2016

The Herbert will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Coventry Blitz with a special display of John Piper's iconic paintings of the ruins of Coventry Cathedral, on the morning after the Blitz.

John Piper was an official War Artist in World War II, from 1940 -1942.

The morning after the air raid that destroyed Coventry Cathedral, Piper came from Northampton and seated in the window of an adjacent Solicitor’s Office, produced his first painting of the bomb damaged ‘Interior of Coventry Cathedral’, now on regular display in the Herbert.

Jeffery Daniels, writing in the Times, has described this painting of the Ruins as, “all the more poignant for the exclusion of a human element”. It has also been described as Britain’s Guernica.

Piper painted a second picture, “View of Coventry Cathedral on fire during the bombing campaign of 15th November 1940”, which is owned by Manchester City Galleries.

During this special exhibition, for the first time, both paintings will be on show together.

LAUNCH OF TWO LIMITED EDITION PRINTS

Saturday 14 November

In collaboration with the Goldmark Gallery in Uppingham, the Cathedral is offering collectors the chance to own a limited edition framed copy, of each these two Piper paintings of the ruins of Coventry Cathedral.

This offer, which will also benefit the Cathedral, will be launched at the Saint Michael’s Singer’s Concert on Saturday 14 November.
THE BLITZ AND THE BAPTISTRY

The untold story behind the paintings

A catalogue, produced by the Imperial War Museum to accompany an exhibition of Piper’s work in the 1940s, recalls the poignant circumstances, surrounding the creation of the two paintings of the old Cathedral.

It also reveals the influence of the Manchester painting, on Piper’s subsequent design for the Baptistry Window of the new Cathedral.

“Piper felt like an intruder at a private disaster, and did not like to be seen to be drawing at such a time. At first he could not imagine how to cope with it, but he saw some houses next to the cathedral, which were undamaged, and one had the brass plate of a solicitor’s office. Piper described it as a sight familiar from his youth as a trainee lawyer:

It was a port in a storm. I went up and there was a girl tapping away at a typewriter, in a seat by an upper window, as if nothing had happened. I said ‘Good Morning. It’s a beastly time isn’t it? And she explained that she had only just come on duty. I told her I had been ordered to do some drawings. She said ‘Of Course, you can have my place’. She moved her typewriter to the other side of the room and I started drawing the Cathedral.”

“Piper drew the apse, which was now no more than a screen with scorched tracery. He then went down inside the cathedral, where he sketched and photographed a view from inside the nave, looking east, with what had become a box of walls on three sides of him, the whole suddenly exposed to the sky”.

“Piper finished two paintings, one of which was quickly used by the Ministry of Information in the form of a postcard. For a time, this small painting became for Britain, a symbol of national resistance to Hitler.

It was not accurate in every detail - the tracery was not broken at the centre - and the picture depicts the building still burning at night. The strong colour is heraldic, like flag and the white light radiating from over the altar suggests a spiritual presence”.

“Sixteen years later Piper was commissioned to design stained glass for a huge bay window in Basil Spence’s new Coventry Cathedral. Again, Piper took as his motif for the design the white light radiating from the centre.

This triumphant design remains an extraordinary echo from one of the lowest points in the war.”

ANDREW L PAINE
Chairman The Friends of Coventry Cathedral
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