

INFORMATION ON THE COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS OF NAILS

We are now members of the Community of the Cross of Nails.

On 8TH December 2018, our Parish of Abbeydale and Millhouses was presented with a Cross of Nails by Rev'd Canon Sarah Hills, Canon for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral. This is a sign of our membership, and will move between our two churches when we have joint services.

How did the Community of the Cross of Nails begin?

In 1940, when Coventry Cathedral was bombed, Provost Dick Howard vowed that rather than seeking revenge, they would seek reconciliation. He had the words 'Father, forgive' engraved on the ruins of the Cathedral, and not 'Father, forgive them'. This acknowledges that we are all in need of forgiveness. In the ruins of the cathedral were found charred wooden roof beams that had fallen into the shape of a cross, together with nails. The nails were formed into a cross and became the symbol of the Community that was formed officially in 1974.

Who are the members?

This is an international community with members from around the world. It includes churches, schools and a wide variety of organisations, large and small, such as Christian Aid, the global Mothers Union and Flodden Peace Garden. Our neighbouring parish of St. Peter and St. Oswald is also a member.

What are its aims?

The aims are threefold:

- Healing the wounds of history
- Living with difference and valuing diversity
- Building a culture of peace

Litany of reconciliation

Each weekday, at 12 noon in Coventry cathedral and around the world, members say the Litany of Reconciliation. We have printed the words on a postcard.

What does it mean for us to be a member?

Membership means we have committed ourselves to working on ways of fulfilling the three aims (above) as relevant in our context; also, to saying the Litany of Reconciliation regularly. Please see overleaf for more details.

LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

Each weekday at 12 noon, there is a short service in Coventry Cathedral when they pray the Litany of Reconciliation. On Fridays, it is held outdoors in the cathedral ruins. Members around the world are invited to pray the Litany at 12 noon, wherever they are, as a powerful reminder of our joint commitment to forgiveness, peace and reconciliation.

IN OUR PARISH – LITANY DATES FOR 2019

All at 12 noon at St. John's, outside by the war memorial:

JANUARY	Friday 18th
FEBRUARY	Thursday 14th
MARCH	Friday 15th
APRIL	Tuesday 16th
MAY	Friday 17th
JUNE	Wednesday 12th
JULY	Friday 19th
AUGUST	Wednesday 14th
SEPTEMBER	Friday 20th
OCTOBER	Monday 21st
NOVEMBER	Friday 15th
DECEMBER	Thursday 19th

If you cannot attend at St. John's, you may want to pause for a few minutes and say the prayer wherever you are, knowing that you are joining in with the international community.

We will also say the prayer in joint services.

For further information, please see the Community of the Cross of Nails website: www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/

And our parish website:
www.amchurchsheffield.co.uk