



# CCN Newsletter

## June 2024

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

### Congratulations to Oliver Schuegraf, Bishop of Schaumburg-Lippe



Left: The Chair of the German CCN Board, the new Bishop of Schaumburg-Lippe, on 25th May: many congratulations, Oliver!

Right: Dean John with Dean Timothy Kimbrough, Dr Nina Balmaceda Vargas, and Rev Ian McPherson from Pullen Memorial Baptist Church at Duke Divinity School's Cross of Nails presentation on 15th May.

### Welcome, Duke Divinity School, North Carolina!



Photos from our recent May pilgrimage, with groups attending from Chemnitz and Weissenburg (right), and a group visit the week following from Luedenscheid-Plettenberg (far right). We loved having you all with us! [Sign up here for our next pilgrimage](#) on 15-18th October.



### 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 by our UK & Ireland partners :

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/6527541231?pwd=uAgknkerTxUiC4pvYyi3jiEWbDtNLO.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](mailto:alice.farnhill@coventry.anglican.org) | <https://www.facebook.com/CCNCoventry/>  
<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/community-of-the-cross-of-nails>

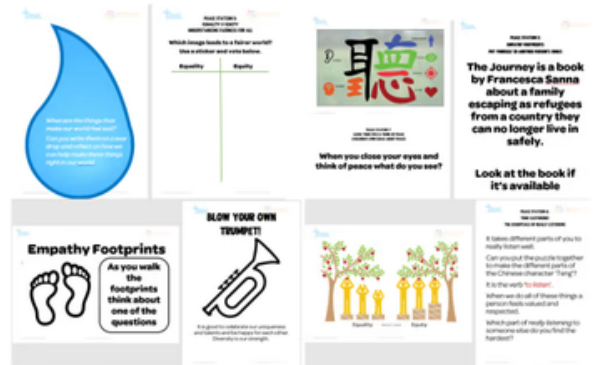
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### News from ICONS (International Cross of Nails Schools)

May has been about addressing how to get the wider community around ICON schools engaged in learning about peace. We have relaunched our peace trail; a resource to be displayed in public places inviting parents, visitors, governors to explore key themes – empathy, positive peace, equity, and lament. The resource is available for purchase on the website <https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/shop/digital-resources/peace-trail-complete-resource>



For more information, take a look at the ICONS-specific newsletter [here](#) or email: [Jessica.Weale@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto: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>

### News from Together for Hope

As the clock ticks ever closer to the Olympics later this summer, we're really thrilled to be in discussion with the [Eric Liddell Community](#) about their joining Together for Hope in the near future. Eric Liddell was a devout Christian Scottish athlete who made history in the 1924 Paris Games, and the Community that takes his name is now a vital hub for various sections of the Edinburgh community, across all faiths.

As part of the Eric Liddell 100 campaign, a peace garden is being created in the Morningside part of Edinburgh, where the Community is located. Some expertise is no doubt being shared from Flodden Peace Garden, which joined the CCN seven years ago and is itself undergoing transfer to a new site on the Northumberland/ Scottish borders currently: both gardens shares a connection in CCN UK & Ireland trustee Mary Taylor. The Eric Liddell Community is located in the former Morningside parish church at Holy Corner, and will be our first active partner in Scotland!



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

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



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### Reminders ...

#### Virtual Cross of Nails presentation to the Denis Hurley Centre, Durban, on 27th June

Please do join the short service at which Dean John will present a Cross of Nails in Coventry to Roman Catholic Archbishop Bernard Longley, receiving it on behalf of the Denis Hurley Centre, immediately following the midday Litany on our [Cathedral Facebook livestream](#): all very welcome!



#### Evensong at Coventry Cathedral on Monday 1st July at 4pm

If within reach of Coventry, please do come to hear the Youth Choir of [Braunschweig Cathedral](#), which joined the CCN last year. We're so pleased they're paying us a visit on their summer tour and all are very welcome to come and hear this especially added Evensong.



### Calling all those aged 18 to 28!

#### International Young Reconcilers' Gathering, Berlin, 12-13 October 2024

#### Can the wounds of history be healed?

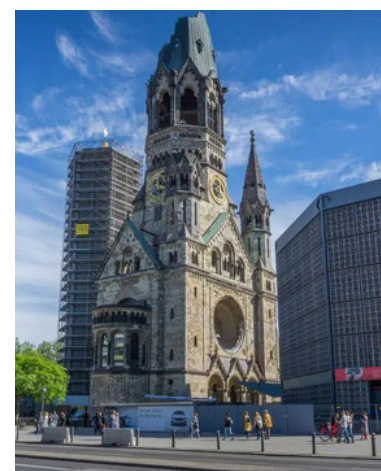
Berlin has been shaped like no other city by German history. Join us for discussion with our Berlin partners, including the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, the Chapel of Reconciliation, the Martin-Niemöller-Haus Berlin-Dahlem, Martin-Luther-Memorial-Church and the Garrison Church in Potsdam, on whether and how the wounds of history can be healed, different forms of remembrance, and how we respond to rising populism. Open to young reconcilers from 18 to 28; however:

- German participants from 16 with parental consent; those older than 28 but still studying please contact us!
- Those outside of Europe interested to attend, please contact us asap.



Accommodation in homestays with members of the CCN and hostels.

The event is free to attend, with just a small cost to cover meals, and some travel assistance is available. Do join us! [Register your interest here](#) or contact us for more information: [jugendkonferenz@nagelkreuz.org](mailto:jugendkonferenz@nagelkreuz.org).



#### Contact us at:

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<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/community-of-the-cross-of-nails>



## Thought for the Month June 2024

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### Thought for the month from Dean John

**CCN Sunday this year falls on 29th September, and these (condensed) words from Dean John's recent visits to Canada and the USA recently may be helpful in preparation: how might your church mark the day?**

All Christians are called to the ministry and message of reconciliation: All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 2 Cor 5.18,19. The Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) is a community of those who recognise a particular vocation to this message and ministry - it's the path they are called to travel.

For many years I have been describing a Cross of Nails presented to a local community as like a cairn on that path, helping the community, having once discovered the path they are called to tread, to know how to find, or re-find, the way. On my recent visit to Canada however, I discovered another name for the Cross as cairn: the inuit word 'inukshuk' refers also to a marker on a path, sometimes a pillar of stones, or sometimes like a pile of flat rocks looking like a person with their arms stretched out horizontally to each side, indicating the way. An inukshuk is an even more powerful symbol than a cairn, as it may indicate not just a path to guide travellers, but also a place that has been found good for food, or for camping, or a marker for a place of reverence. In some places they can be signs commemorating a sacred ancestor.



Often, in fact almost always, this path is not simply a matter of random choice. We all know those who choose to follow a career as peacemakers who do it in a way that smacks of self serving. Those who are called to be peacemakers would not usually have chosen that path, because it's their response to being touched, often deeply, by suffering and brokenness, which compels them to work for reconciliation. This experience of suffering and brokenness may not be just as victims. It may be that they have been touched by brokenness as perpetrators, those who have caused suffering, or those who are descended from or who have inherited the benefits of perpetrators. It may be as victims, those who have suffered at the hands of others. Or it may be as witnesses, those who have accepted the calling to be neighbours of those who are victims, or even perhaps perpetrators.

Reconciliation is a complex word. My own working definition of it is "to journey from a fractured past towards a shared future". Reconciliation is never complete, it is a path we are called to travel. It is the journey we have found ourselves over some eighty years in Coventry, initially wounded as victims, although ultimately as victors (and arguably perpetrators), in a war which inflicted terrible suffering on both sides, as was revealed in places like Dresden. Our experience of this journey, of God's grace in rebuilding not just a Cathedral but the lost relationships that led to its destruction, has led to our calling to inspire others to make that journey for themselves in their own contexts. We have discovered that it is a journey that is possible, no matter how hard it may seem. The glorious new Cathedral inspires visitors to believe that the journey of reconciliation is one they can, and must, follow for themselves.

When an organisation joins the Community of the Cross of Nails it joins with 260 other partners across the world in this shared belief, and a shared work for peace. That journey involves local work, different in each context, but with common themes (above) that enable mutual learning and encouragement. The CCN is a way of saying, 'reconciliation is at the heart of our life'. To receive a cross of nails is to say, 'this is the path we are treading'. It commits us to forming relationships with those we might choose to avoid, remembering the words of John Paul Lederach: "you have never really engaged in the work of reconciliation until your own people believe you have betrayed them." It is a way of expressing our belief that in partnership with God and one another, the world can be changed. Destruction and loss, faced honestly and offered to God, can lead to new life.

The work of reconciliation will look different in each context. The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation has often been reworded to reflect the fractures of race, poverty, gender or faith which prevail in a particular locality. It often involves the arts, as a way of opening minds and hearts to a reimagined future of new relationships. What might it mean for you?