



**Lord Mayor of Coventry's
Committee for Peace and
Reconciliation**



Hiroshima Day Remembrance
Remembering the 78th anniversary of
Hiroshima and Nagasaki 1945

Sunday 6th August 2023, 2pm

Order of the Remembrance

As participants gather, from 1:30pm, Tony Edwards plays the Cathedral's Norwegian organ

1. Welcome to Coventry Cathedral from the Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation.
2. Peace Bell rung by Alderman Joe Clifford.
3. Introduction by Manjit Kaur and Pru Porretta, MBE.
4. "We remember" read by Manjit Kaur.
5. Exchange of Messages of Greeting between Coventry and Hiroshima read by the Lord Mayor Councillor Jaswant Singh Birdi and Mr Yasuyuki Okazaki, Minister for Public Diplomacy from the Japanese Embassy.
6. Sadako's Story, read by Coventry students.
7. Making Japanese paper Cranes of Peace, led by Jo Hallett.
8. Reflection by The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop of Coventry.
9. Coventry Cathedral Litany of Reconciliation led by Mary Goodwin.
10. International Prayer of Peace led by Manjit.
11. Community Affirmation led by Manjit.

This event is being live-streamed to our Cathedral Live Stream Facebook page: <https://tinyurl.com/4u4y4uty> and will also be made available on our YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/37rftefy>

Please ask one of the organisers to locate you in a suitable place if you would prefer not to be seen in the broadcast.

Welcome to Coventry Cathedral

The Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation, welcomes us to Coventry Cathedral. The Peace Bell is rung by Alderman Joe Clifford, and then Manjit Kaur says (beginning in Japanese):

Kon'nichiwa... Kobentorī e yōkoso (Hello, welcome to Coventry). The Coventry Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembrance this year is led by me, Manjit Kaur. I am a member of the Coventry Sikh Sangat and Chair of the Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE), Coventry and Warwickshire. I welcome everybody here today, both here in the Nave of Coventry Cathedral and all those watching us at home.

Introduction

Manjit Kaur says,

We are gathered here today to remember and mourn the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to ask forgiveness for their suffering and to pray that no nuclear weapons will ever be used again. We pray that the world may be rid of the threat of nuclear war for all time.

‘6 August 1945, 8 am’: a Hiroshima victim

Read by Pru Porretta

The hour was early, the morning still, warm and beautiful. Shimmering leaves, reflecting sunlight from a cloudless sky, made a pleasant contrast with shadows in my garden as I gazed absently through wide-flung doors opening to the south.

Suddenly a strong flash of light startled me – and then another. Through the swirling dust I could barely discern a wooden column that has supported one corner of my house. It was leaning crazily and the root sagged dangerously. Moving instinctively, I tried to escape, but rubble and fallen timbers barred the way. By picking my way cautiously I managed to reach the roka and stepped down into my garden. A profound weakness overcame me, so I stopped to regain my strength. To my surprise, I discovered I was completely naked.

How Odd. What had happened?

All over the right side of my body I was cut and bleeding. A large splinter was protruding from a mangled wound in my thigh, and something warm trickled into my mouth. My cheek was torn, I discovered it gingerly, with the glass which I matter-of-factly dislodged, and with the detachment of one stunned and shocked I studied it and my blood-stained hand.

Exchange of Messages of Greeting between Coventry and Hiroshima

Manjit says,

We now exchange messages of greeting between Coventry and Hiroshima. A letter of greeting from the Mayor of Hiroshima will be read by the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Jaswant Singh Birdi, and the reply of greeting from Coventry will be read by our representative from the Embassy of Japan, Mr Yasuyuki Okazaki, Minister for Public Diplomacy.

'We remember'

Manjit reads 'We remember'. Everyone is invited to join in the refrain.

We remember the parents who lost their children in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the families that still mourn.

All We remember the children and young people who died, and those who died later of radiation sickness.

We remember the doctors and nurses who treated the victims in the ruins of the city, many of whom died of radiation sickness.

All We remember all the survivors who lived with their wounds and terrible memories.

We remember all those who worked, and still work, for the peace and healing with a commitment that grew from the ashes of Hiroshima.

Sadako's Story

Students from Coventry, read as a drama

I will write peace on your wings and you will fly all over the world.
"Look at the children's monument, decorated with thousands of folded paper cranes. It is a memorial to all young people who suffered from the bomb. But it was not erected until 1958, after the death of Sadako Sasaki."

Sadako was only two at the time of the 'pikadon' (*PIKA means brilliant light and DON means boom*). The pikadon exploded a mile from her home and she seemed unharmed. She appeared to be a normal healthy girl until she was in the sixth grade, then suddenly appeared the signs of leukaemia so well known among the Hiroshima survivors.

According to the legend that has grown up around her, Sadako was very brave in hospital. 'I don't want to die', she wrote solemnly in her diary, yet she managed to laugh and sing gaily when her classmates came to visit her. And she folded paper cranes.

There is an old belief in Japan that a crane can live a thousand years. If you fold a thousand cranes, they will protect you from illness. But Sadako did not have the strength or time to reach a thousand. In October 1955, when she had made only 644, she died. Her friends added the missing cranes and placed them all in her coffin with her. And then, as the young people of Hiroshima could no longer bear watching their friends die slowly over the years, they rose up together to do something about it. They would erect a monument to Sadako in the Peace Park, to remind the grown-up world what the bomb had done to the first children who had experienced it.

With an amazing zeal, Sadako's classmates started a campaign to raise money from all over Japan. To the amazement of their impoverished elders in that struggling city, they collected the miraculous sum of seven million yen (twenty thousand dollars), and commissioned a distinguished sculptor in Tokyo to design a monument for them. It is a powerful memorial. On the top of an oval granite pedestal, that symbolises Mount Horai, fabled mountain of paradise, Sadako stands holding a golden crane in her outstretched arms. Colourful paper leis (garlands), each a thousand cranes from all over the world have been placed there as offerings. At the base are the words: *'This is our cry, this is our prayer, peace in the world.'*

Making Cranes

Manjit says

We shall make paper cranes as a symbol of our hope for harmony in today's world and our willingness to work together for peace.

Jo Hallett of Coventry Quaker Meeting will lead the making of the cranes of peace

At the end of the service, you are invited to take your cranes and place them on the table in the Chapel of Unity as a sign of your prayers or intention for peace. If you prefer, you can take your crane home at the end of the service.

The Reflection

*The reflection is given by Bishop Christopher, speaking in his political role.
This reflection was recorded earlier.*

Coventry Cathedral Litany of Reconciliation

*Manjit introduces the Litany of Reconciliation, and Mary Goodwin - of the
Peace Committee – leads it.*

Following the bombing of the mediaeval Cathedral in 1940, Provost Howard had the words 'Father Forgive' inscribed on the wall behind the Altar of the ruined building. The Cathedral's Litany of Reconciliation is based on this inspiring act of faith and hope.

(In place of the words, 'Father, forgive' you may prefer to say 'O God, forgive'.)

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race,
class from class,

All **Father, forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is
not their own,

All **Father, forgive.**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays
waste the earth,

All **Father, forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

All **Father, forgive.**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless,
the refugee,

All **Father, forgive.**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

All **Father, forgive.**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

All **Father, forgive.**

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

International Prayer for Peace

After a moment of silence for everyone to make a personal commitment to peace making, Manjit invites us to STAND and leads the International Prayer for Peace.

All **Lead me from death to life**

From falsehood to truth

Lead me from despair to hope

From fear to trust

Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.

May peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

Community Affirmation

We remain standing as Manjit introduces

**All We, who live in the shadow of the mushroom cloud,
Today, declare our hope in the future.
From the diversity of our traditions
We have come to renew our belief in the goodness of
the earth and the sanctity of all life
We declare we are at peace with all people of good
will; we need no leader to define for us an enemy.
We choose to be peace-makers rather than
peacekeepers
We choose a nuclear-free future
And will settle for nothing less.
We unite ourselves with people all over the world
Before us are set life and death
We choose life, that we and our children will have life.**

Music is played as the service concludes.

If you wish, please take the crane you have folded and place it on the circular table at the centre of the Chapel of Unity.

Please linger and chat for a few minutes with a cold drink on the Unity Lawn to the side of Coventry Cathedral.

We wish you a safe journey home and we hope that those at home will take care of each other and stay safe.

Thanks to the Lord Mayor's Peace Committee,
the Lord Mayor, the Office of the Lord Mayor of Coventry,
Coventry Cathedral and the Chapel of Unity

Cranes – Ann Hilton

Music - Tony Edwards, Director of Music at All Hallows
Wellingborough

Coventry Hiroshima Friendship Club – Margaret Hartley

Video / Photography record – Philip Brown, Neslinhan Ozar
Sadako Hiroshima banner made and displayed by Pru Poretta and the
Godiva Trust.

Hiroshima Exhibition in Chapel of Unity Ann Farr

...and thank you to *you all* for joining us at Coventry Hiroshima
Remembrance 2023.

The Lord Mayor's Peace Committee has worked since 1975 in Coventry to
promote peace issues through witness events e.g. the Lord Mayor's Peace
Lecture, United Nations Day, Coventry Peace Trail, and the annual
Hiroshima Day service. The committee meets every two months on a
Wednesday at the Council House.

New members to support our work are welcome, representing yourself and
your organisation with an interest in peace, e.g. religious or political
organisations.

To join please contact our chair Paul Maddocks
paul_maddocks@yahoo.co.uk



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Hiroshima/Coventry Friendship Club

Hiroshima Coventry Club spreads the spirit of Coventry "Peace and Reconciliation" by friendship exchange. Hiroshima Coventry Club began in July 2006. Several Lord Mayors of Coventry and residents have visited Hiroshima. Coventry Hiroshima Friendship Club meets socially monthly and for discussions about Coventry poet Antony Owen's war poetry in English, monthly.

This year we remember with particular thanksgiving John Hartley (9.10.33-8.6.23), who worked tirelessly in the Hiroshima/Coventry Friendship Club, and who initiated our practice of an exchange of letters between the Lord Mayor of Coventry and the Mayor of Hiroshima, read at this service. We continue to offer Margaret our sincere condolences and support.

Hiroshima Coventry Club holds a Coventry Day Gathering in October or November every year to remember the bombing of Coventry.

People of Coventry are welcome to contact Hiroshima Coventry Club though Hideko Okamoto – please email otomaru.yume@gmail.com
Hiroshima Coventry Club's Coventry contact is Dr Miho Taka at Coventry University aa4857@coventry.ac.uk

