

August 2024

Connecting Younger Generations IN GOD'S LOVE

Embracing All People WITH CHRIST'S COMPASSION

Strengthening Community THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT



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Scan the QR Code to access our website.



We acknowledge the sovereign First Peoples of the lands and waters where we live and work across the country and pay our respects to Elders past and present who have cared for these lands for millennia. We are committed to walking together seeking justice and reconciliation.



High Street Times



Summarised Statement of Income/Expenditure for 6 Months to 30th June 2024

INCOME	Budget		Actual	
Planned Giving/Open Plate		52500		55885
Rental Income		23000		18584
Donations		750		850
Donations: Children's Outreach		250		220
Reimbursements/Miscellaneous		3000		5300
Goods and Services Tax				905
Fete		5000		5362
Interest - Cash Management Account		100		123
GST Reimbursement MBA		500		0
Atkinson Foundation Income		1500		1827
Guest Foundation Income		2000		2295
Bomar Grant		9000		9000
Transfer from Wesley Lease		10000		6000
Transfer from Bequest				
Transfer from Employment Reserve		11000		0
Money for Mission Fund		20000		22628
Unit Price Adjustment				65
TOTAL INCOME		138600		129044
EXPENDITURE				
Ministerial Costs		62000		61586
Administration Costs		23850		24208
Planned Giving Expenses		500		580
Property Costs:				
Fire Brigade Levy	250		592	
Cleaning/Maintenance	23000		21036	
Rates: Council/Water	2750		2670	
Gas/Electricity	5000	31000	3098	27396
Insurance				
Sunday School/Children's Outreach		500		0
Organ/Choir/Copyright		1250		1634
Goods and Services Tax				4679
Miscellaneous		5000		2762
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		124100		122845
Outreach:				
Mission and Service Fund	6000		6000	
Tom Sutherland	250		500	
Community Support	750	7000	0	6500
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		131100		129345

Note: Operating deficit for 6 months is \$301

As always we are indebted to Keith Holmes and his team for the invaluable work they do.

From the Minister...



Rev Ross Writes

The rapid, and deadly, increase in violence in our city cannot go uncommented. Senseless attacks on people at the beach or in the street, armed conflict in the shopping centre. This is not who we are, and it cannot be ignored. Although my comments are more sadness and concern than condemnation or judgement. How sad it is to see our young people so messed up that they are filled with anger and violence. While some may point to the hard face of economics and a whole generation feeling locked out of progress and having no hope, there are also many players who exploit those feelings for their own power or gain.

Children are not born filled with hate, anger, and violence, and we are left wondering, 'what is happening?' How have these young people learnt to pick up weapons in a culture that we think of as peaceful? These questions are important because there seems little sense in talking about increased policing and punishment, and I've seen plenty of those comments online if we haven't thoroughly examined causes and culture and influences. After all we are the people who believe that a fence at the top of a cliff is better than an ambulance at the bottom.

Where are we to start in looking for the reasons for young people in our streets with knives and machetes? Do we look to gang culture imported from other countries or the influence of extreme views and social media hype, or substance abuse? Or is it simply the dominance of a culture of 'them and us'; a culture that always talks about competition? Or is it a mix of all those influences? Whatever we may think is the cause, the answers cannot be left for other people, we need a whole-of-society approach to improving our culture for all generations. It cannot be left to schoolteachers and influencers, or Social Workers and Police, or left with parenting, because the issues, and the socio-economic conditions, are so much more complicated than simple answers.

I'm not offering answers, because I'm no expert, nor am I involved with young people in Frankston. But I do know enough to not jump at simple judgements or condemnation. The terrible events of the last few months point to some deep issues at work in the local society that we all need to grapple with. My wish is that we can, collectively, bring hope and peace into these young lives.



Assembly News



The 17th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia has just concluded in Sydney. Along with the installation of the new President – Rev Charrissa Suli, our first President from a South Pacific nation, the Assembly has chosen the President Elect – Rev Dr Paul Goh, who will be the first President from an Asian nation.

Commemorations

This year, Assembly marked the 30th Anniversary of the Covenant between the UCA and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. The Covenant has shaped and continues to shape the life of the Uniting Church as we move towards reconciliation.

And this year is also the 30th Anniversary of the Manual for Meetings, a groundbreaking change to the way meetings are held and decisions arrived at. No more official motions and amendments and simple voting. We now discuss and try to arrive at consensus on proposals, with the sense of agreement of the meeting being ascertained with indicator Cards – orange, blue, and yellow.

Act2.

One of the major matters of business before the Assembly was the report from the Act2 Project on the future shape and mission of the Uniting Church.

The 17th Assembly has made a series of decisions arising out of the Act2 Project, adopting three new visions for the life of the Uniting Church, establishing two new national Commissions, and requesting a further investigation into the Uniting Church's national structure.

Substantial work was undertaken by the 17th Assembly Facilitation Committee in relation to the Act2 proposals, which were discussed at length in Community Working Groups and in meeting plenary.



The 17th Assembly affirmed an opening statement which preceded the proposals:

We open ourselves to the gift of the Spirit, given in order that we may not lose the way. With thanksgiving for the past 47 years of our life, and after taking a long, loving look at the reality of our present, and with hope in God's faithfulness for our future, we commit to continue our journey together. We believe now is the time to reshape our life so we may better live into God's call in our time and place. By centring life-giving communities of discipleship and mission, cultivating a flourishing theological culture and deeply sharing in our common life and wealth we will treasure Christ's gift of abundant grace, share this gift with our world and pass it to future generations.

The 17th Assembly has adopted three new visions for the life of the Uniting Church and established two new national Commissions

It adopted **a vision for local Uniting Church communities:**

Communities of faith will sustain a life of worship, build one another up in love, grow disciples of Jesus and participate in God's mission. These diverse communities of faith will shape their life in response to God's call in their context and deepen their relationship with God, one another, the wider church and the world.

It adopted a **second vision for a National Network for Theology, Formation and Leadership**, which refers to those institutions and communities – including but not limited to theological colleges – where people are educated and formed for discipleship, mission and ministry. It envisions:

A visible and accessible network of intentional communities engaged in life-long learning to equip people to courageously follow Jesus and participate in God's mission in contemporary Australia.

The Assembly adopted a **third vision for the ordering and resourcing of the whole Church:**

A network of deeply connected councils responding to God's call to enter more fully into mission through healthy oversight of ministry and mission, celebrating our diverse and shared identity and being faithful stewards of our common life and wealth.

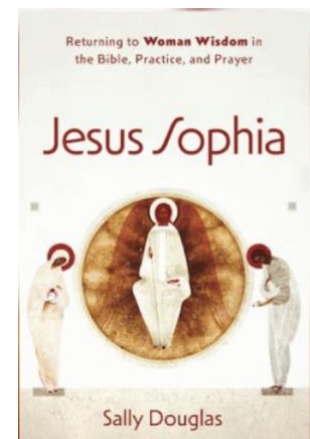
It also resolved to "Call to the Church, in living out the vision for sharing our common life and wealth, to prioritise sharing our resources with one another for the benefit of the whole Church."

To guide and resource these visions, the Assembly established two new commissions - **a new national Commission for Theology, Formation and Leadership**, and **a new national Commission for Governance, Resourcing and Administration** - to see this vision implemented across the life of the Uniting Church. The Assembly adopted a suite of principles to guide the work of the Commissions and to help the Commission for Governance, Resourcing, and Administration to undertake feasibility studies related to the national structure of the Uniting Church, investigating the consequences, risks and opportunities of both a three-council and a four-council model.

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Book Recognition - 'Jesus Sophia' by Sally Douglas

Rev Dr Sally Douglas' book 'Jesus Sophia: Returning to Woman Wisdom in the Bible, Practice and Prayer', has been shortlisted for the 2024 Australian Christian Book of the Year. Sally is a lecturer at Pilgrim Theological College



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CHRISTIAN UNITY AND CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
HOW FARES THE UNITING CHURCH?

Speaker: Em Prof Robert Gribben

SUNDAY 11 AUGUST 2024 AT **2.30PM**

FREE EVENT AT:
North Balwyn Uniting Church
17-21 Duggan Street Balwyn Nth

Or for a Zoom link, email:
ken.barelli@bigpond.com

For enquiries call Ken on
0418 317 942

VICTAS UNITING CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Uniting Church Historical Society is presenting a theological topic: Christian Unity and Christian Worship and one of the leading theologians, Emeritus Professor Robert Gribben is talking about church worship.

We pray...

- For those within our church family who find it difficult or are unable to attend worship, including Sheila and Leon Knoop, Gwen Paxino, Audrey LaBrooy, Ruth Conn, Marie de Silva, Lola Coupe, Margaret Snyder and Barbara Yates.
- For the family and friends of Margaret Sherry who passed away suddenly last week.
- For Marj Mitchell who is unwell currently.
- For Roy Gieseman, recovering from further surgery.
- For Nylma Carruthers still in recovery
- For the Carolus family, with Eileen receiving care, and her sister Val and family.
- For all others who are in poor health and having treatment.
- For Somers Camp coming up in July, and all the leaders and children.
- For members of the Synod dealing with the future of the church.
- For all affected by violence against women.
- For the conflict in Israel and Palestine and now Yemen.
- For Ukraine, still under attack from Russia.
- For the unsettled situation in New Caledonia.
- For all those living with mental health needs in our church family and our community, and our country.
- For those around Frankston who experience homelessness.
- For those struggling with the ever-increasing cost of living.



The prayer chain regularly and continuously keeps particular needs in prayer. You can ask for prayers through the prayer chain by contacting Marlene, phone 5971 2840 or email marlene.thresher@gmail.com, or emailing directly to hsuca-prayer@googlegroups.com. The prayer chain is a small group of church members who are dedicated to prayer, and consider all communication and prayer needs strictly private and confidential unless specified otherwise.

Lots going on this month with our own stained glass artists and a wonderful Pentecost celebration

New President Installed

The Uniting Church in Australia has installed its 17th President, Rev Charissa Suli, in a joyous, spirit-filled celebration at a packed St Stephen's Uniting Church on Gadigal land in Sydney.

The historic appointment of Rev Suli as the youngest and first person of colour to lead the church nationally was joyfully celebrated by hundreds of people from around the country who filled the Church, while many more watched the streamed service live.

It was a vibrant, poignant and memorable service filled with symbol, prayer and joy-filled song.

"As I look out into the room tonight, I see a glimpse of God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, the singing of choirs, the gathering of God's people from different parts of the world and this nation."



The harmonised sounds of the Tongan National Conference choir rang through Church and the worship band led the congregation in praise, with people invited to sing in their own language, a celebration of the cultural diversity of the church and the appointment of Rev Suli as the UCA's first President of Pacifica heritage and Tongan descent.

Speaking after receiving the symbols of ministry from the retiring President Rev Sharon Hollis, Rev Suli acknowledged the significance of the moment.

"As I look out into the room tonight, I see a glimpse of God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, the singing of choirs, the gathering of God's people from different parts of the world and this nation."

"Tonight, we see a glimpse of God's powerful love in how we have come together to sit side by side and stand in solidarity tonight, all in the name of love and mutual respect."

Referencing the biblical story of Esther, who was chosen to be queen and later realised she was called to save her people, Charissa said she felt both the honour and the weight of responsibility in taking up the role of President.



Coventry Cathedral



Those of you who are from England may have experienced a family car from the Rootes Group. Cars such as Hillman, Humber, Singer, Sunbeam, Commer and Karrier were popular in the 50s to 70s. The bonnet badge featured three vertical stripes. I wonder how many of you realise that they represent the three spires of Coventry, home of the group: Christ Church. Holy Trinity and right next-door St Michael's cathedral.

St Michael's was built in the late 14th century and raised to Cathedral status in 1918. It stood proud and strong until the night of 14th November 1940 when the Luftwaffe reduced it to rubble during one of the most intense nights of blitz bombing.



After the rubble was cleared all that remained was the shell of the building and the spire. There it sat throughout the fifties as a symbol of wartime destruction. Plans were made to rebuild the cathedral; Sir Basil Spence was appointed architect and the foundation stone was laid in 1956 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The new cathedral was consecrated in 1962.



The decision was made not to build on the old site but to keep that as a garden of remembrance, so the new building was situated at 90° to the old ruin. This immediately caused a stir as all Anglican churches are supposed to face East. Despite this the new church was hailed as a masterpiece of architecture attracting gifts of significance from all over the world. It was based on the journey from darkness to light and this features throughout the building.

The nave is dominated by the huge (at one stage thought to be the biggest in the world) 23 x 12metre

tapestry of Christ rising to glory surrounded by symbols of the four evangelists. This was designed by Graham Sutherland and produced at the same Gobelin centre which produced the Bayeaux Tapestry.

As you walk down the nave you realise that the windows have been built in a zig zag fashion. They have been designed to represent the stages of life: green - youth; pink and red - puberty; multicoloured - middle age and finally purple - old age. As you move towards the altar as in life you can only see the windows you have passed not the ones to come. The future is hidden.

Backed by the magnificence of the baptistery window is a huge boulder: the font. Carved from a rock from the Jordan valley.

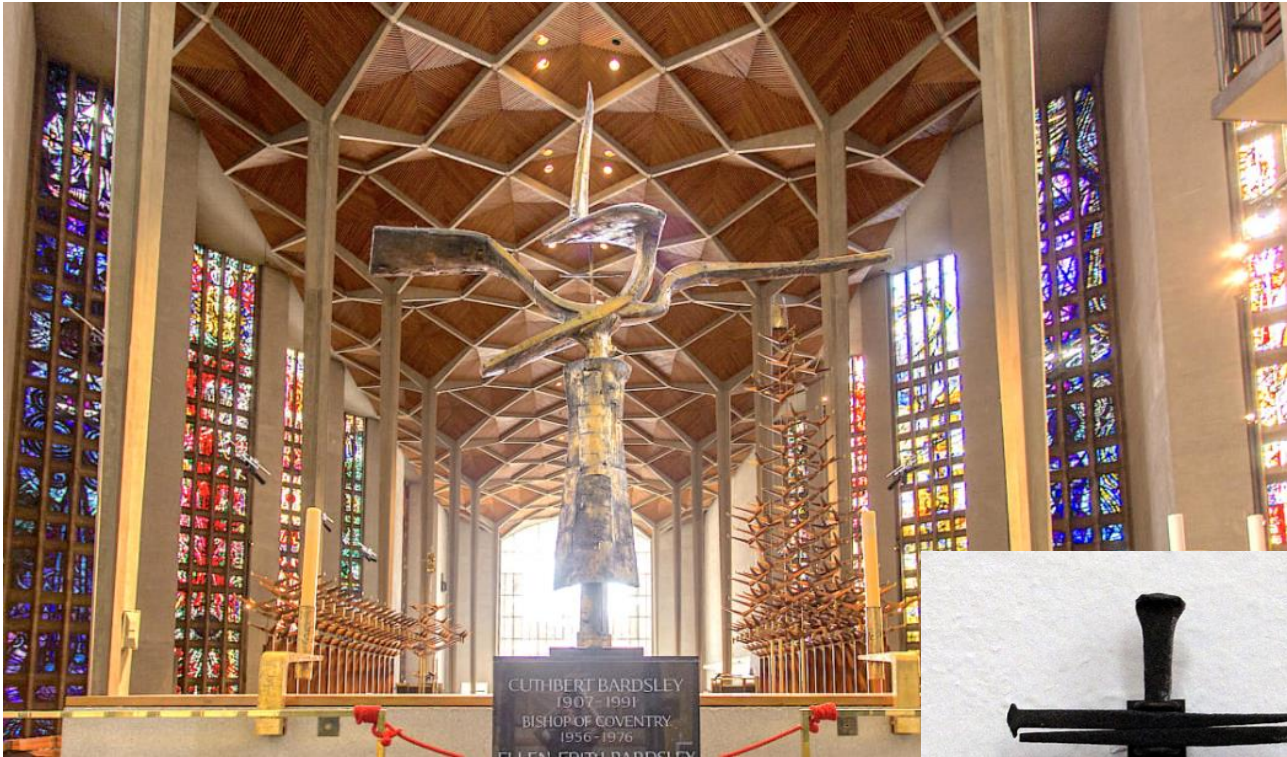
The cathedral offered artists from all over the world a chance to contribute in a modern way to this amazing building. A canopy of triads representing doves soars above the bishop's throne. The bible is read from an eagle lectern designed in bronze by Elizabeth Frink. Other features include huge pottery candlesticks framing the altar, A wonderful Gethsemane chapel with wall containing glass, mosaic and other glittering features and various chapels featuring marble floors of many designs.



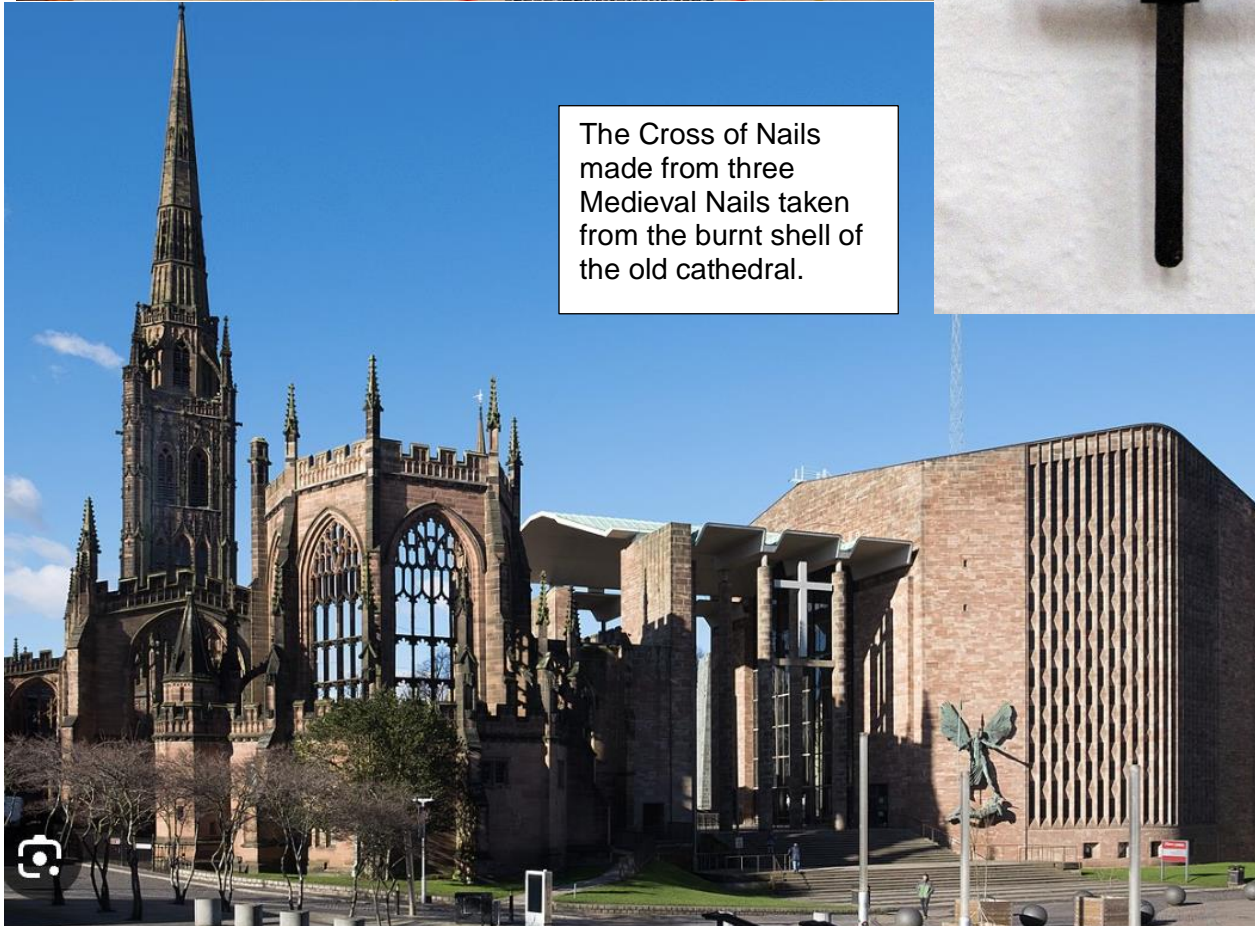
The heritage of the cathedral is maintained by the inclusion of the Cross made from burnt medieval nails from the original building. With this goes a number of statues and artifacts representing reconciliation with countries such as Germany. Coventry has a very special relationship with the city of Dresden also devastated by bombing during WW2. The outside of the building is completed by Sir Jacob Epstein's magnificent statue of St Michael the Archangel defeating the devil

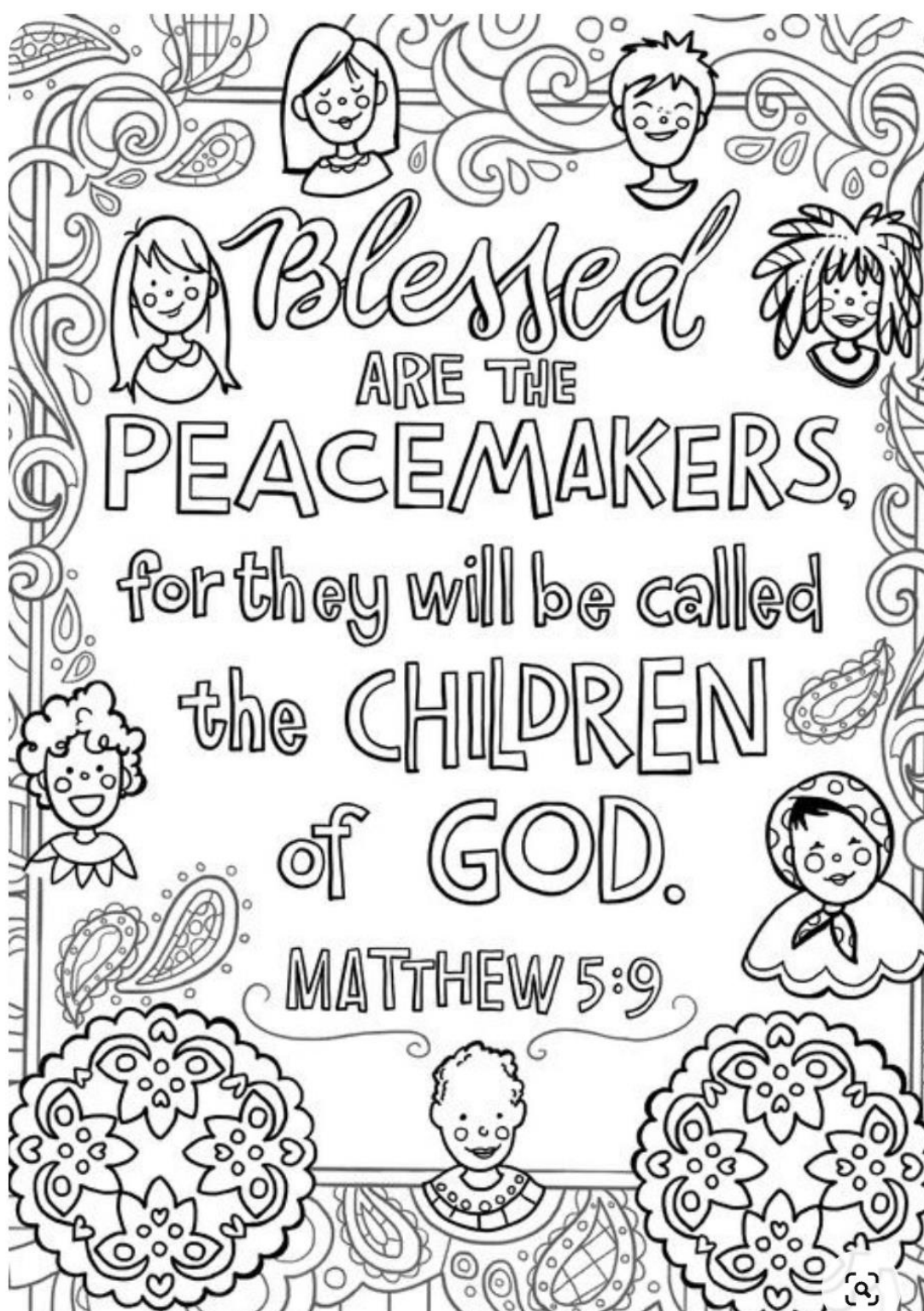
If you find yourself in Coventry at any time. Don't miss the chance to visit one of the newest of British cathedrals. You won't be sorry.

John Annable



The Cross of Nails
made from three
Medieval Nails taken
from the burnt shell of
the old cathedral.





ZOOM/PHONE DETAILS

For all services:

On a tablet or laptop computer: Go to <https://zoom.us/j/95468493260> and use the password 3199.

(or go to <https://zoom.us/join> and use the meeting number below)

On a phone without video: call (03) 7018 2005

Meeting ID: 954 6849 3260 #

Participant ID: #

Password: 3199 #