

Coventry strengthens ties with Japan to remember the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima - service on Saturday 6th August at 2pm in Old Coventry Cathedral and New Coventry Cathedral.

On the 2016 anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima, The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr Lindsley Harvard and the Rev Kathryn Fleming, Canon of Coventry Cathedral will welcome to the city Bruce Kent honorary vice-president Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Mr Katsumi and Mrs Kyoko Takahashi from Hiroshima Japan.

Mr Katsumi and Mrs Kyoko Takahashi Envoys for the Mayor of Hiroshima Japan will join with other dignitaries and members of the public at the Coventry Cathedral for a brief service to remember the impact of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima on the 6th August 1945 and Nagasaki three days later.

The service will begin in Coventry's Old Cathedral gathering beside the Statue of Reconciliation. There will be live music and later a dance interpretation of the Statue of Reconciliation. Then everybody will walk into the New Cathedral and gather where the service looks into the Chapel of Unity. Hiroshima Day in Coventry is a 60 minute service that Recalls, Remembers and Reflects on the dropping of the bomb on the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki for people of all faiths and no faith to join with.

“As a city of peace and reconciliation, it is right that we continue to pause and remember the impact of the atomic bomb on the people of Japan,” commented the Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry. “This annual event, which is now in its 27th year, brings together people of all faiths and none. Some may say it was a long time ago and half way across the world but it is part of our role in Coventry to look back, reflect, pause and look forward by strengthening our relationships with those who were our enemies and are now our friends.”

The service will be led by the Canon Kathryn Fleming Coventry Cathedral and Bruce Kent will speak during the service.

“This annual event, arranged by the Lord Mayor's Peace Committee, began in 1989. , “The service will begin with a message of greeting from the Mayor of Hiroshima, followed by a reply from our Lord Mayor, a huge honour as we continue to build upon the friendship between the two countries. This year is the 10th Anniversary of the Coventry-Hiroshima Club in Hiroshima and a special booklet commemorating this fact will be presented to our Lord Mayor.

The service will include prose readings and reflective silence; and the congregation will join together to make Japanese origami cranes of peace. After the service there will be soft drink refreshments and a chance to talk to those present. We hope that there will be a stall of Palestinian goods and an exhibition about Hiroshima in the Chapel of Unity Coventry Cathedral.

Everyone is welcome to attend the service in both old and new Coventry Cathedral 2pm Saturday 6th August 2016.

The service is organized by the Lord Mayor of Coventry Committee of Peace and Reconciliation – contact davidfishcf@msn.com or 07779784786 for further details.