



November 2018

Dear Friends,

Thank you to all of you who were involved in and came to the *Forget-me-not!* event on 13th October. It was a great success. We had wonderful displays from the Dasset and Temple Primary schools, songs from the Gaydon Voices, a Trench art exhibition and much more. We raised £408.80 for the much needed refurbishment of St George's Church at MOD Kineton.

The end of the First World War is not the only centenary being commemorated this year. It's also the centenary of the formation of Coventry Diocese. To celebrate this there has been a "Cross of Nails" pilgrimage between the 75 Church of England primary schools in Warwickshire which started in January.

The "Cross of Nails" - a symbol of reconciliation - comes from the second World War. The medieval Coventry Cathedral was destroyed during the bombing of Coventry on 14th November 1940. When Reverend Dick Howard walked into the smoking ruins the next morning he said the most extraordinary thing... "We will rebuild the cathedral as a sign of *hope* and as a sign of *peace*. We must make sure this never happens anywhere in the world again." He then wrote on the Cathedral walls the words "Father Forgive." He called people to reconciliation not hatred and war, and his refusal to point the finger of blame at those who had bombed Coventry started the Coventry Diocese ministry of Reconciliation.

In the ruins he found three big medieval metal nails, from the fallen roof beams and bound them together to form a cross of nails. A symbol of the presence of God in the midst of that destruction. A symbol of the reconciliation of God. The "Cross of Nails" became a the symbol of reconciliation and in the years after the war the church worked for reconciliation between Coventry and other European cities destroyed in the war. This ministry has continued to this day and takes diocesan representatives world wide.

The pilgrimage of the "Cross of Nails" reached the Dasset Primary School 11th October and I had a wonderful time with the children the next day teaching them about reconciliation. Saying sorry, forgiveness and reconciliation sit together, but as children and as adults they can be very difficult concepts to understand and put into practice.

*Rev'd Nicki*