

Festival of Hope



Festival hopes to inspire Coventry with creativity

A celebration of creativity will be lighting up Coventry during our City of Culture year. After we have lived through a strange time, this is the moment to inject some positive energy into the world. We are therefore encouraging artists to express hope - hope for our personal lives, our city, our nation and our world.

The Festival of Hope will be in three stages. The first will be online; a second stage will consist of local community workshops; and the third stage will present meetings, activities, concerts, readings and exhibitions.

The first online stage will begin in September this year, with a curated website to showcase *artistic expressions of hope*, mainly from local people, but also from people across the world. We'll consider contributions from painters, illustrators, sculptors, conceptual artists, photographers, story-tellers, poets, writers, craftspeople, dancers, street artists, singers, instrumentalists, bands, songwriters, dramatists, actors, producers, composers and more. Students, amateur and professional artists are all invited to submit their work.

See our website at <https://www.festivalofhopecoventry.org/about>

The second stage begins in October, with a children's holiday club for half term, and will then feature workshops inviting people of Earlsdon, Chapelfields and beyond to get involved in anything from singing in a community choir to exploring memories through poetry.

The third stage will be in Spring 2022, and will comprise a 16-day real-world festival, with exhibitions, concerts, readings and other events. The Festival includes a community stream, which will accept submissions from any local children, adults and groups.

For interviews or information please email: info@festivalofhopecoventry.org.

How churches can get involved

Please pray for and promote the Festival of Hope to your congregation. The Festival is officially supported by Churches Together in Earlsdon and Chapelfields. We accept contributions from anywhere in Coventry and beyond, and we welcome contributions from people of any faith or no faith.

We'd love that the Festival stimulates dialogue and reflection on the theme of Hope, and we especially invite Christians to be a part of this. If you have practising artists in your congregation, whatever field they may be working in, please do let them know about the Festival. The online exhibition is already open for contributions, so please encourage them to share any relevant material they may already have produced. The FoH website is a space where they can gain publicity for their work, including biographies and links to their own websites. Amateur artists and occasional dabblers may also submit material. All contributions will be considered by our curators for the main pages of the exhibition, and any work submitted by non-professionals will very likely be included on our community page in any case.

If you would like to organise any community arts events please talk to us. The Festival of Hope is a great way for churches to engage in Coventry's City of Culture year.

Local contact: Alison and Richard Lawn, Earlsdon Methodist Church.