



19.4.22

Peace Doves Set To Soar at Derby Cathedral

Embargoed until 12.01am Friday April 22 2022

Visitors to Derby Cathedral will be able to see 'Peace Doves', a large-scale art installation, for the first time on Saturday April 23.

The art installation is created by renowned sculptor and artist Peter Walker and will feature 8,000 paper doves suspended on ribbons above the nave, accompanied by a tranquil soundscape from composer David Harper.

The paper doves have been decorated with messages of peace, hope and love – many of which have been created by members of local community and wellbeing groups who have joined workshops run by Derby community arts organisation Artcore, and the general public.

The mass participation community arts project has also involved schools across the city and county who have also made their own Peace Dove displays with the support of Peter Walker's education and arts team.

The exhibition opening will mark the start of a diverse events programme across the city with an array of free and ticketed events, workshops, talks and concerts.

The Very Revd Dr Peter Robinson, Dean of Derby, explained: "The last major art installation in the Cathedral was 'Museum of the Moon' in autumn 2019 which drew thousands of visitors to the Cathedral and had such a positive impact on the neighbouring Cathedral Quarter and the wider city centre.

“We were keen to recreate the positivity and beauty that a major art installation brings to the magnificent space in the heart of Derby Cathedral and were delighted when we secured artist Peter Walker to bring ‘Peace Doves’ to the city.”

He continued that the messages behind Peace Doves were even more powerful in light of the continued crisis in Ukraine.

He said: “Our original driver for bringing ‘Peace Doves’ to Derby Cathedral was to create a unique piece which reflects the thoughts and feelings of local people from all faiths, ages and backgrounds following such a turbulent time for everyone during the pandemic.

“Now, with war continuing in Ukraine and the value that we all place on peace being uppermost in our minds, the messages behind Peace Doves have even greater poignancy.

“We look forward to welcoming people to the Cathedral and we hope that visitors will encounter peace and the space to reflect on the past two years and the suffering that Ukrainian people are now experiencing.”

Peace Doves was first staged at Lichfield Cathedral in 2018 when it was designed to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. It was also installed at Liverpool Cathedral in 2021 which attracted more than 150,000 visitors.

Peter Walker said: “I am delighted to bring Peace Doves to Derby Cathedral. Previous installations have been very well received and have created a prideful sense of community and togetherness.

"Sometimes, art has the ability to transcend just being an object and become the focus of our collective sentiments. That is the purpose of Peace Doves, which allows thousands of people to create, and express their own personal emotions as part of an ensemble which produces a beautiful final composition, and a series of smaller community works.

“It allows us not just see an artwork but to be part of it, to contemplate peace, as we think of those whose lives are so tragically affected by the many ordeals of life, from the tragic situation in Ukraine, and conflicts abroad to the many issues affecting people in this country, as well as those we love and who are close to us".

He added: “Nearly every message on the doves is not about one person, but about the community, the city, and the bigger picture. This artwork is designed really, by me, but it has been made by the people of Derby and Derbyshire.”

Peace Doves will be in place until 12th June 2022 and, throughout the exhibition, entry to the Cathedral will be free of charge although a suggested donation of £3 per person is requested which will go towards the care and work of Derby Cathedral helping to keep its doors open for all.

Booking is encouraged through Derby Cathedral’s Eventbrite page

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peace-doves-at-derby-cathedral-tickets-239993104837?aff=ebdsoporgprofile> as entry will be restricted at certain times eg: during services, private events and concerts.

‘Peace Doves’ at Derby Cathedral is funded by Arts Council England, Westhill Endowment, Cathedral Quarter Business Improvement District (BID), Derby City Council and Foundation Derbyshire.

For more information about Peace Doves at Derby Cathedral please visit

<https://derbycathedral.org/peacedoves/>

Ends

Media enquiries: Sarah Jenkin-Jones, JJPR, Tel: 01332 515102/07951 945665;

sarah@jjpublicrelations.co.uk

Note to Editors

About Derby Cathedral

Derby Cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Derby, and a centre for mission and worship serving the people and parishes of the Diocese of Derby.

As well as being a lively place of worship, it is a place of musical and cultural excellence with a flourishing Cathedral Choir, and frequently hosts concerts and events. It is also one of the oldest buildings in Derby City Centre and as a Grade 1 listed building, it is of high historical significance.

Derby Cathedral aims to develop strong relationships with all its stakeholders to become a place for inspirational music and worship, learning, heritage stories, arts and culture. Find out more at www.derbycathedral.org

About Peter Walker

As a sculptor and artist Peter Walker's work adorns towns and cities both nationally and internationally. His art work consists of large-scale sculpture, commissioned and bespoke sculptural works as well as paintings, drawings, film, sound and light installations. Peter has vast experience in artistic direction / project management and large scale project development. Peter is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a member of the Royal Society of British Sculptors.

www.peterwalkersculptor.com

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies administering the Government's unprecedented £1.96 billion Culture Recovery Funds. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19.

About Artcore

Artcore is a Derby based visual arts organisation with artists working within the local communities to enhance lives by sharing knowledge and skills through the medium of art. As our vision we believe that contemporary art and creativity are central to the development of people and places.

<https://artcoreuk.com/>