

Cranes of peace flock to Harleston

Thursday 3 August 2017

A flight of 1,000 origami cranes that has landed in the nave of St John the Baptist Church, Harleston, will be on display all summer fluttering from the rafters.

The art installation leads up to the UN International Day of Peace on 21 September. Among the coloured paper cranes are seven white ones representing the world's continents, and the 1,000th large one represents the local community.

The project grew out of Harleston's SwiftAction project, now in its second year, and reinforces the principle that the desire for peace between neighbours, countries and continents - just like the migrations of Harleston's swifts - knows no boundaries. The work fulfils the 2017 Harleston and District New Year Resolutions and is a gesture of their hope for peace at home and abroad. It has been put together under the auspices of the Rotary Club of Harleston and District and Harleston's Future.

The paper cranes carry messages, thoughts and drawings on the theme of "peace" contributed by schoolchildren from Alburgh with Denton, Harleston, and Pulham Primary Schools; by students at Archbishop Sancroft High School; and by individuals, members and officers from many local institutions and groups.

"It's wonderful to be involved in our community and the community being involved with our church, especially when we see the seeds of peace growing," said Lucy Elton, Churchwarden. *"This thoughtful and inspiring exhibition in the church helps us all to know how God is working amongst the children in a spiritual way, using our many gifts, and how we can all pray for peace in a more visual way."*

Tokens from the artwork and its messages will be taken abroad when the installation comes down - with a proposed first stop in New York at the Peace Bell gifted by Japan to the UN in 1954.

Visitors to the exhibition are being encouraged to add their own peace messages and observations which will be transcribed into a Community Peace Book.

St John's Church will be open every day from 9 am to 4 pm, except Sundays which is open from 12.30pm to 4 pm unless joining the 11 am Sunday service. For evening group bookings please email: stephanie.woollam@yahoo.co.uk

