

Autistic Christians Support Community

Wounded Healers - Christ, Coventry and Me

Presenter: Franceska Dante

Chair: Stewart
Chat Monitor: Sue

16 May 2026

AGENDA

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. 11.00 – 11.05 | Welcome and Introduction |
| 2. 11.05 – 11.15 | Francesca: Wounded healers - Christ, Coventry and Me |
| 3. 11.15 – 11.45 | Discussion (30 mins) |
| 4. 11.45 – 11.55 | Community Update |
| 5. 11.55 – 12.00 | AOB |
| ----- | |
| 12.00 - 12.30 | Social time |

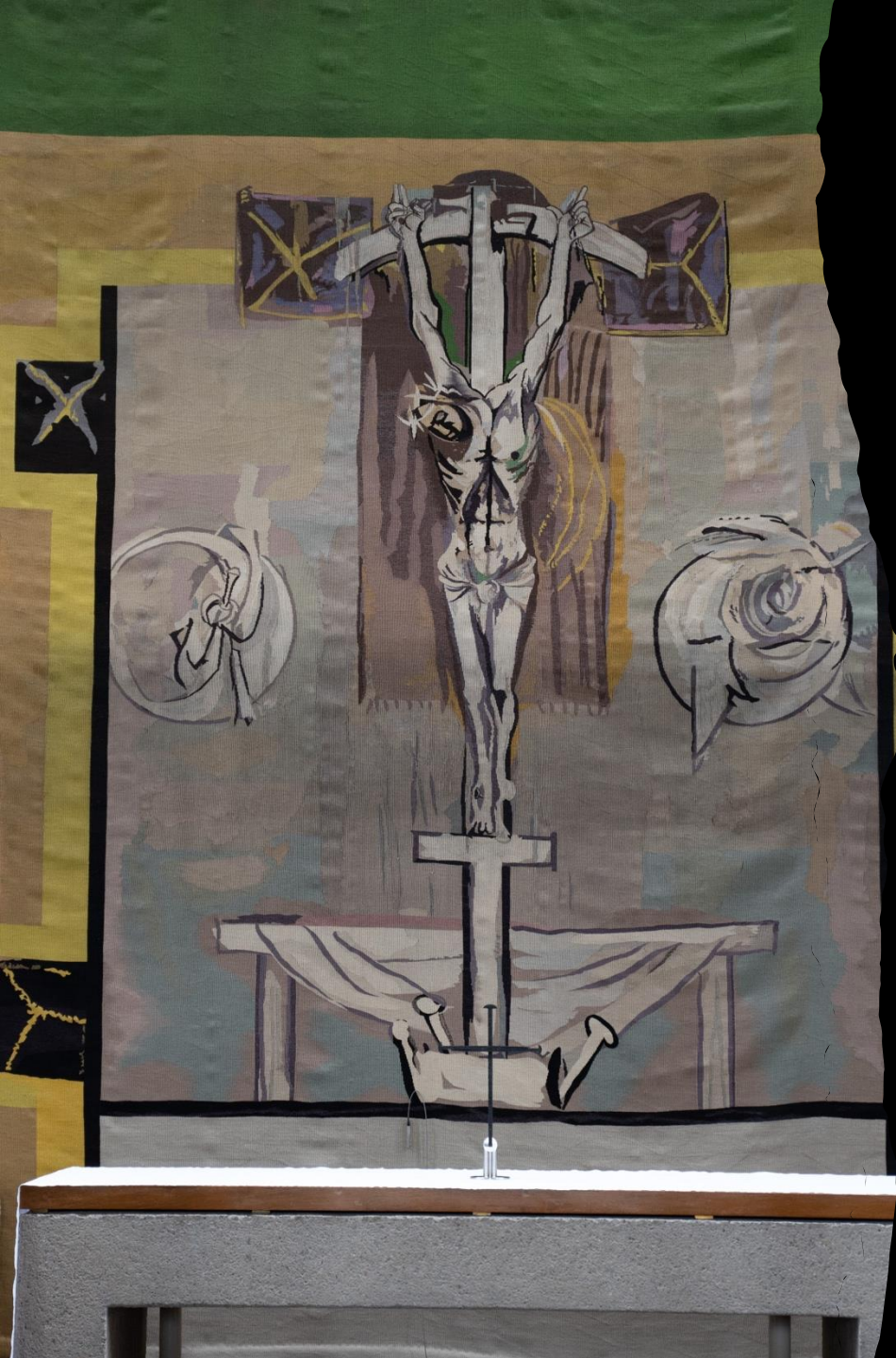
Autistic Christians Support Community

Wounded Healers - Christ, Coventry and Me

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Chair: David Derbyshire
Chat Monitor: Sue Hartley

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Wounded Healers:
Christ, Coventry &
me.



INTERIOR COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

Christ

- Incarnation
- Established earthly ministry
- Miracles
- Disciples
- Challenged stat

Crucified, died and was buried

Coventry

- Built 1150 as parish church
- Restored from 1869, costing £40,000
- 1918 raised to cathedral status

Devastated by Nazi bombing 14th November 1940

Me

- Found a home at St. Nick's, Dec. 2015
- 8+ years serving parish
- Vicar a good friend
- Delivered Stations of the Cross that she said 'showed us the cost of Grace'

6 wks later: Removed from ministry without warning / plausible explanation.

Pretty much how I felt, too



Christ

- Forgave the 'good' thief unconditionally
- 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do'
- Gave up His Spirit
- Descended into hell
- Liberated souls
- Carried on His work, unseen

Resurrection & ascension

'Never did Christ convert so many people and in so short a time, as He did hanging on His cross'
– Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley

Coventry

- Suffered with city's people
- Represented God, who 'humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross' Phil. 2:5, KJV
- BBC empire Christmas broadcast 1940 '...with Christ born again in our hearts today... to banish all thoughts of revenge... to try to make a kinder, simpler, a more Christ-Child-like sort of a world.' Provost Howard
- 'Father forgive'

Ministry of reconciliation

'I saw the old Cathedral as standing clearly for the sacrifice, one side of the Christian faith... my task was to design a new one which should stand for the triumph of the Resurrection'
-architect Basil Spence

Me

- Walked away when previously I would have clung on
- Was actually concerned for FBV & asked someone to keep an eye on her
- Recognised fallible humanity and commended it to God's care.
- 'Hurt people hurt people'
- Suggested banging clergy's heads together more than once!

Affirmed my calling to inclusion of the marginalised and excluded.

How to turn the stigma of being ejected from church into the stigmata of the resurrected Christ?



In the 12 steps, we choose to do one of two things with pain:

Transform it

Or

Transmit it



CUTHBERT BARDSLEY
1907-1991
BISHOP OF COVENTRY,
1956-1976
ELLEN EDITH BARDSLEY
1912-2001



- Questions:
- God sent Christ to experience the fullness of human life – including the painful aspects. How can our experience of being different or marginalised help us in our ministry?
- Do we misunderstand resilience, confusing it with being impervious to pain rather than returning from it?
- Can we represent Christ if we have never suffered?

COMMUNITY NEWS

CFE Discussion Schedule - 2026

DATE	DAY/TIME	CFE-Autism DISCUSSION TOPIC	SPEAKER	CHAIR	CHAT
17 Jan	Sat/11am GMT	Long Covid and Autism - overlapping communities?	Grant	Stewart	Sue
21 Feb	Sat/11am GMT	Beating alcohol dependence?	Courtney	Sue	David
21 Mar	Sat/11am GMT	Autistic burnout and trauma?	Sue	David	Stewart
18 Apr	Sat/11am BST*	Seeing, noticing, valuing?	Stewart	David	Sue
16 May	Sat/11am BST	Wounded healers - Christ, Coventry and Me.	Franceska	Stewart	Sue
20 Jun	Sat/11am BST	Appreciating Anglo-Catholic liturgy?	Catherine	Sue	David
18 Jul	Sat/11am BST	Humour, Faith and Autism?	Jonathan	David	Sue
Aug		Summer Break – no meeting			

* The UK changes from GMT to BST on 29 March 2026

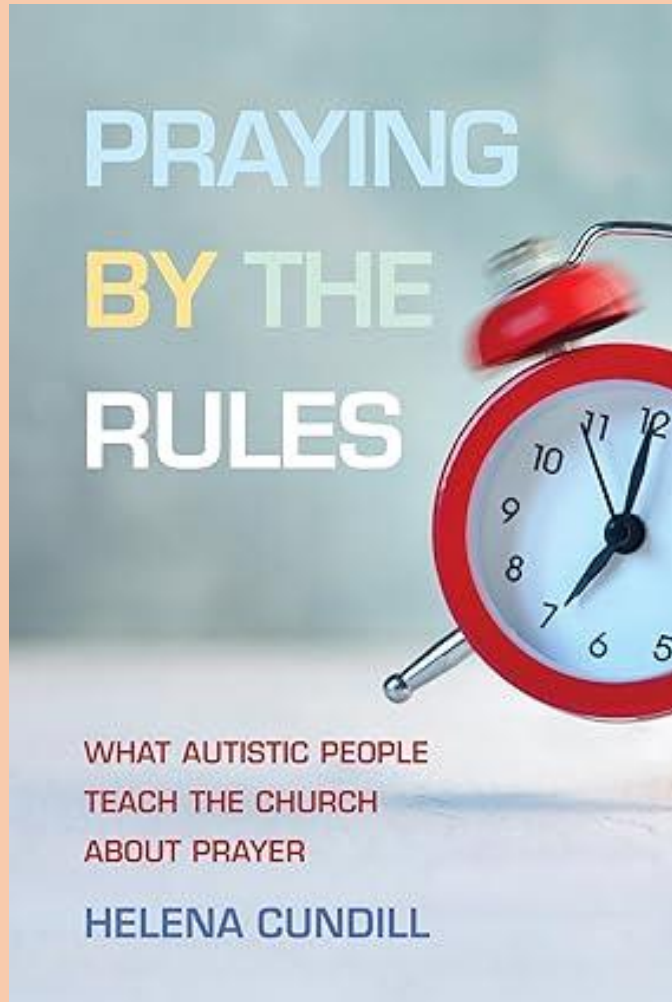
CFE Discussion Schedule - 2026

We are now looking for topics for September onwards.

If you would like to take on one of these topics (below) – or have another idea – or are happy to do a talk and would like help choosing a topic - please let me know.

No	Topic
8	Rules and Tricks for Autistic flourishing: Can project management ideas help?
9	Building helpful and 'impactful' relationships outside meetings
12	Autism and Other Faiths
20	Monotropism
21	AI, Autism & Faith
22	Ageing: an issue for autistic Christians?
23	Raising issues with Church: "shall I stay or shall I go?"
24	Autism and Shame, a faith-based approach.
25	Safeguarding - what is a 'safe space'?

New Resource



scm press

<https://scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780334067221/praying-by-the-rules>

Amazon

<https://amzn.eu/d/00dYoTtJ>

New book by Centre for Autism & Theology researcher Dr Helena Cundhill.

In-depth study of the 'lived-experience' of prayer – based on interviews and discussions with a number of autistic Christians.

P.S. I haven't read it yet, but I did participate in the research, and the book has endorsements from Claire Williams, Armand Léon van Ommen and Grant Macaskill.

P.P.S. Why so expensive? (£25-30) Largely because such books are not 'mass appeal' – publishers produce them on small runs.