

20 Aug 2001 00:00

## Nations unite in service

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Guests from the Japanese Embassy and old soldiers at the ceremony

FRIENDSHIP links between Britain and Japan were strengthened and renewed with a service of reconciliation in Coventry Cathedral yesterday.

The ceremony was led by Canon Andrew White, initially in the cathedral ruins, with an international congregation of about 70. But brilliant sunshine soon turned to a sharp shower and the service moved inside to the cathedral's chapel of unity.

It coincided with the anniversary of the end of the Second World war, and took place in front of Josefin de Vasconcello's statue, Reconciliation, which was unveiled in 1995 - 50 years after the end of the war.

It ended with a short Buddhist ceremony of prayer for peace led by the Rev Kemmyo Taira Satu.

Wreaths were laid by Minister Monji, representing the Japanese ambassador, and old soldiers Masao Hirakubo and Philip Malins.

Canon White, director of international ministry at Coventry Cathedral, said: "We are here to remember the pain there has been between Britain and Japan and also the reconciliation that has taken place between our two nations."

During the ceremony Kathy Priddis, wife of the Bishop of Warwick, the Rev Anthony Priddis, unveiled her own painting of Hiroshima.

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