

Alison Watson

Safe Places

Coventry: a place of peace and reconciliation
for all who come here; a safe place to live and learn.
Welcoming people from across each nation
and learning from them all in turn.
For nearly 80 years this city has defied
those who challenged its unity, its culture, its trust,
and ascended as a Phoenix with peace and pride
to offer safe refuge from the unjust.

In our spaces we follow our interest and passion
and we are safe in the knowledge that we can be who we are.
We are safe to express our culture, background, our fashion,
whether we are a local or come from afar.
Some people judge our city unfairly as though
our concrete structures can define our spirit, our soul.
But we have a strong heart and show all that we know
our place in the world performs a vital role.

Now as Coventry moves through the next three years,
proud of its heritage, let us demonstrate,
and show the world they can allay their fears,
as the City of Culture we will celebrate.
Our peaceful mission will be forever to provide
safe places in our city for all in need.
Let's shout it loud that Coventry's passion and pride
is vital to the world, indeed.