

Screen of Saints and Angels

after John Hutton's glass engravings in Coventry Cathedral

The city has sickness round its neck like a ring-road
or concrete torc.

The city has four cathedrals; buried, bombed, abandoned
and now this tower block
which I watch from my window for four long months,
seeing a saint in every flat,
a miracle each day:
disease driven away without a touch
but with a quiet night, another cup of tea.

The city is kept safe by ordinary people
not seeing how the angels sing their praises.

By Jack Cooper