

## Coventry Cathedral



I stood among the blackened ruins  
wanting to cower  
cover my head  
hands over ears  
to avoid the deafening blasts  
screeching bombs  
that must have rained down

I imagined people  
running for shelter  
an old man, a vicar, a mother and child  
a young pilot in the bomber  
pressing the release button  
to destroy six hundred years of history,  
countless lives  
obeying orders, a night's work

This place is a stark reminder  
of what can happen  
when man fights man  
futility  
destruction  
sadness  
madness

I stepped inside the rebuilt church  
the warmth, colour and light  
a refuge in a fearful world  
hope for reconciliation  
*'Peace be with you'*  
*'And also with you'*  
I'm glad I came,  
a stark reminder

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