



St Peters Church Llanbedr

On Sunday the 19th June 2011 the village of Llanbedr in Gwynedd in North Wales was honoured by the award of a Cross of Nails by Coventry Cathedral . The Cross of Nails is a very powerful symbol of peace and reconciliation (see <http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/about-us/our-reconciliation-ministry/the-community-of-the-cross-of-nails.php>).

The award to the Community of Llanbedr is an amazing story from the closing weeks of World War 2 A B17 Flying Fortress, HB779 BU-K of 214 Squadron, piloted by a highly decorated and experienced bomber pilot, Wing Cmdr J Wynne DFC got into trouble returning from a raid and the crew bailed out and were captured and imprisoned in the School House in Huchenfeld. 5 of the Crew were taken out and executed by the Hitler Youth:

Flt Lt Sidney C Matthews, Flg Off James Vinall, Flg Off Harold Frost, Flg Off Gordon Hall, FS Edward Perceval Marjorie Taylor (Frost) later attended a reconciliation service in Huchenfeld in 1992.

When Wing Cmdr Wynne was made aware he and his wife Pip commissioned a wooden horse which was christened Hoffnung (Hope in German) and subsequently with John's inspiration and encouragement the village began a series of exchanges with the school children which eventually lead to the twinning of the two communities in 2008 This act finally culminated in the presentation of the Cross Of Nails to the Village at a service in St Peters at 11am on Sunday 19 June 2011.



Source: Mr Fred Foskett - Church Treasurer