Events

Looking for somewhere different for your next event or meeting? Charterhouse is that place. We have facilities for small, formal and informal meetings and a wide range of events - from workshops and away days, to baby showers and birthday parties. Charterhouse Priory is also licensed to hold marriage ceremonies and civil services.

For more information, please visit www.historiccoventry.org.uk/get-involved or email jo@historiccoventry.org.uk

Support us

There are a wide range of ways in which you can help the Trust in its work to preserve the historic buildings of Coventry for the public to enjoy for generations to come.

Please spread the word about what the Trust is doing and excite others to join us to strengthen and support our efforts. Support us financially by making a one-off or regular donation via our Local Giving page, or maybe consider leaving us a legacy gift in your will which would last forever.

Why not consider holding a fundraising event for us? We can help you arrange this and have plenty of outdoor space to host it.

www.localgiving.org/charity/historiccoventrytrust/

Any help however small makes a real difference

Volunteer

Volunteering at Charterhouse offers the rewarding experience of working in a unique environment and being part of bringing an amazing piece of Coventry’s history back to life. We have a fantastic team in place and offer a range of diverse opportunities for all levels of skill and fitness.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our co-coordinator, Abigail, for more details.

abi@historiccoventry.org.uk
Then

Coventry’s Charterhouse was started in 1381 by a visionary Carthusian monk, Robert Palmer. King Richard II adopted the project in 1385 and with his wife, Queen Anne of Bohemia, laid the foundation stone of the Priory Church. The Carthusian order spread out from its base in Chartreuse in France all over Europe during the medieval period. The monks lived by strict rules and lived a truly monastic lifestyle, including taking vows of silence. The community in Coventry grew steadily between 1381 and 1539, acquiring lands and generating a substantial income. When Henry VIII ordered The Dissolution of Monasteries in 1539, the church and many of the other buildings were demolished, but the Prior’s House and precinct walls were preserved, becoming a private house. Of the ten original Carthusian Monasteries, only two have significant remains and Coventry’s is the only one with intact interiors. It is a unique survivor.

Some notable people are connected to The Charterhouse including: Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, who owned nearby Kenilworth Castle and was a close friend of Queen Elizabeth I; horticulturist John Whittingham who sold citrus trees to Warwick Castle and finally Col. William Wyley, the last owner of the house. Col. Wyley was an industrialist in the pharmaceuticals trade and was a very influential man in the city.

Now

The Prior’s House sits within 600m of monastic precinct walls set within much valued open space - Charterhouse Fields. Recent work by the Trust has stabilised the building’s condition, but a full restoration project will be essential to secure its long term future. Following acquisition the Trust immediately embarked on urgent works to rebuild a dangerous chimney and restore 85m of collapsing wall. These works have been completed with support from Historic England and Pilgrim Trust.

Unlike other monastic buildings The Charterhouse has changed little since its conversion into a house by Robert Dudley in the 1500s with elements of the original and Elizabethan interior still remarkably intact.

The Charterhouse is open regularly for Open Days, Community events and small corporate events and now has a wedding license.

Soon

Thanks to Heritage Lottery funding, plans are well progressed for the restoration of the Charterhouse as a major heritage attraction for local people and tourists. In addition to displays in the main galleries, new facilities include a café, shop and wedding/ events venue. The project includes:

• Restoration of the main Charterhouse building and its unique wall paintings.
• Opening the Charterhouse to the public as a heritage and educational attraction.
• Interpretative display to tell the 700-year story of Charterhouse, including: the lives of the Carthusian monks and their importance to the city, the Tudors, the Victorians and more.
• The reconstruction of two monks’ cells, one as a room of silence.
• The planting of organic heritage gardens.
• Restoration of the former stables and coach house to create a wedding and conference venue.
• Naturalising the river and creation of a city ‘beach’.
• The recreation of the natural parkland setting with wildflower meadows, orchard and fish ponds.
• A heritage trail exploring the many features of the 70 acre park.

About Us

Coventry’s Charterhouse is owned by Historic Coventry Trust, a registered charity set up to preserve all of the city’s heritage in need. Unlike larger charities, Historic Coventry is run by a group of dedicated volunteers. This means that 100% of all donations are spent on the preservation of the city’s rich heritage, not marketing nor overheads.

The Building, its walled gardens and grounds form the centrepiece of the Trust’s major project, the creation of a new 70-acre Heritage Park on the edge of the city centre. The park also includes Joseph Paxton’s Arboretum Cemetery as well as a large area of riverside and woodland landscape. The Trust plans to be self-sufficient within 5 years, generating enough revenue to maintain many of the city’s historic buildings in perpetuity.