

# Shop Front Theatre

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## **A space which reflected the values of the City of Peace and Reconciliation**

I have hugely appreciated the presence of the Shop Front Theatre in the City, and Julia and Chris' contributions in particular. The productions in the space itself have consistently reflected the values of the City of Peace and Reconciliation, reinforcing that identity through the Arts in the heart of the city.

Chris and Julia have been also extraordinary partners in so many projects – many to do with the City of Culture. I was especially grateful for Chris' participation in the event arranged by the Cathedral in 2018 at the Belgrade Theatre, *Building Bridges through the Arts*, in which he both offered a reading for us and also participated in a conversation with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Both Julia and Chris have encouraged the development of the Arts programme in the Cathedral, supporting and participating in a wide variety of ways through their individual gifts and skills in word and textile in particular.

The theatre event which Chris wrote and directed as part of the RISING festival, at Fargo, was one of the most striking pieces of small scale theatre I have ever seen, with actors standing and telling their character's stories in a bar setting. I was very moved by the skill of the writing and the power of the performance and would have loved to see it offered again in other situations.

**The Very Revd John Witcombe MA MPhil**  
**Dean of Coventry**