

The Birmingham Convention bus route serves 9 hotels near

Coventry Cathedral

Known by the Church of England as *Cathedral Church of St. Michael*, **Coventry Cathedral** is the seat of the Bishop of Coventry and the Diocese of Coventry. The new St. Michael's Cathedral, a 20th century architectural gem, was built (1956-1962) adjacent to the ruined shell of an earlier cathedral destroyed by incendiary bombs dropped by the Luftwaffe on the night of 14 November 1940.



When a visitor today steps out of the remains of the former cathedral into the new, they sense a combination of sorrow and joy, of both defeat and triumph. This spiritual and architectural experience has been described as capturing the essence of the Christian faith – that death leads to resurrection. Perhaps this explains the “pilgrimage” power of *Coventry Cathedral* to draw visitors from throughout the world.

Make plans now for a vacation your family will never forget.

Save \$100/person Registration fees increase from \$280/person to \$330/person 15 December; and increase from \$330/person to \$380/person 31 March 2009.

Register early to get your preferred hotel.

Online registration and information

Go to www.rotaryconvention2009.com or go to www.taptrain.com/birmingham. Goto www.rsc.org.uk for the Royal Shakespeare Company's performance schedule.

**Rotary's 100th Convention
Birmingham England
June 21-24, 2009**



Leofric (968-1057), Earl of Mercia, and his wife ***Lady Godiva***, endowed ***Coventry Cathedral*** in 1043.

The first cathedral in Coventry was ***St. Mary's Priory and Cathedral***, holding such status from 1095 until 1539 when it fell victim to King Henry VIII's dissolution of monasteries. Prior to 1095 it had been a small Benedictine monastery endowed by Earl Leofric and Lady Godiva in 1043. Leofric was buried within the original Saxon church in Coventry; Godiva at Evesham Abbey also endowed by Leofric and Godiva. According to legend she rode naked through the streets of Coventry in order to gain remission of an oppressive toll imposed by her husband on his tenants. The term *peeping Tom* originated when a Coventry resident failed to avert his eyes as the noblewoman rode past.



John Collier's 1897 painting of Lady Godiva.