# And it was Good in my studio

#### Tuesday 20 November 2018

This month, I launch prints from And it Was Good. Here's a little video to explain (I'm still practicing the video thing!!)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kszwoJJL1w&feature=emb\_logo

# Exodus prints!

## Friday 10 August 2018

I'm delighted to announce that Exodus and new works from Exodus are now available in the shop. Exodus is an interesting painting of fraught journeying, both of a whole people and of individuals. If you are midst journey of any kind, you might in find Exodus and its moments some images to hold you in the midst of your progression from one place to another.



Exodus launch

# **Exodus explained**

#### Friday 10 August 2018

Here's an explanation of Exodus which you may enjoy:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgKBgLuBcEc&feature=emb\_logo

## **Disconnect makes its appearance**

#### Saturday 28 July 2018

This is Disconnect. It has finally made it into my website. I painted it a small while ago now and some of you had a tear or two as you saw the very first canvas marks from a photo on my phone. It brings up what can be a difficult subject and I hope that in an odd way, you enjoy the conversations you have from it.



Disconnect

# Still creating :-)

#### Monday 16 July 2018

Yes, I'm still painting and haven't switched to only printmaking. Yes, this picture is sideways but there we are. I'm practicing at blogging from the desktop site on my phone !

This picture reminds me of the water I see from my boat. I'm not sure how it will finish up, but this is its (perhaps) middle state. Enjoy!



July in progress

## SHOP!!

#### Thursday 12 July 2018

The shop is now live. Wow. What a thing to say. When I posted just before Christmas that all this was to happen soon, I'd not yet met with dear Pumpkin Pip, my fabulous web developers. I also hadn't really got going on how to be a printer as compared to a painter and illustrator. Well, dear readers, the journey was longer than expected, but here we are. A SHOP! On my website.

You'll see when you go to it that I intend to launch a series each month and that this month's launch is **One** and its crops. The crops are new pieces of art in their own right and I am enjoying them enormously. If you wanted to have seen something else in print first, please let me know, because we can always go out of order.

Enjoy!



SHOP!!

# Octave inspired

#### Tuesday 15 May 2018

We had a great time at Carrs Lane this past Sunday. My exhibition, Octave, now on loan from the Westhill Endowment, is mid exhibition there. I took the service on Sunday, using Octave to reflect on simply being - being in the moment, being attentive, and trusting the next moment to God. One of the children decided to be inspired and create his own Octave during the service. It was a delight to see him race up, look, then race back to his artwork. And here it is!



Octave inspired

## Prints - again :-)

#### Tuesday 13 March 2018

My last blog post tells you that I've found a fabulous art printer. Last week, I posted on Facebook that the prints should be coming soon. This week, I'll be meeting with my fabulous web developers https://www.pumpkinpip.co.uk/, to create a shop on my site. Then you'll see a list of everything for sale, release by release. I'll be announcing a new set each month, starting with the announcement of One. For each painting, there will also be crops, or detailed sections, from it - as individual prints for sale. You see, I notice which sections of my paintings people lean close to and appreciate. So you can just have your favourite details instead of the whole piece.

Each print will be available either rolled for you to choose how you will display it, or mounted with an art board border, or mounted and framed. I'll sign each one and will provide a story sheet, giving my story of the piece and conversation pointers. I'll sign an authenticy label which tells you that it truly is a print of my original work.

Please tell me if there is a piece you have been waiting for in print format, so I can prioritise that in the releases. We can ship anywhere, including international. So far, it looks like we can have a first release in April. It will be good to finally do this instead of simply whetting appetites!



Watch

## **Prints!**

#### Friday 15 December 2017

I am delighted to tell you that I have secured a stupendous printing company, and along with the printer, some rather wonderful framers. It will now be possible to have prints on very high quality off-white, matt (non reflective) paper. Each print will be one-off, or part of a very small run, and will be personally signed according to print signature protocols (AP for Artist's proof, or a number/number format to indicate which print of how large a run your piece is). You may order individual prints of most drawings or paintings, and each of the image's pages will let you know if they are available for print. In some cases, the pieces can be printed in actual size, but some paintings are too large for such treatment.

We are working on ways to frame prints of the paintings, as so many of my pieces are integrated with the frames or have no traditional frames. The framers are having a wonderful time with such a conundrum! You won't have to order a print with a frame, but if you do, we will be in dialogue as to your choice, the aspect of the final piece, and what solutions we can arrange.

Most pieces will also be available as post cards. There is just the small matter of laying out to do...

Please use the contact form to place orders or to ask for conversations about particular pieces.

These are exciting times!



## A new website!

#### Friday 22 September 2017

Well, my word, I am excited. I have been trying to work on and manage my website for YEARS. Though I am an absolute technophile and an artist, the world of web development needs much more. Each time a very good hearted person set up my website for me to manage, I sank in a world of language and functionality I couldn't understand. Finally, through being in a nearby church to talk through my exhibition, Octave, I chatted with the gorgeous Joanne. Who happens to build websites. From scratch, with her husband. It's not just that. She gets me. Knows what I can do and what I can't do. And talks in common speak, not tech speak. And here we are.

Just for fun, this is what I can see out of my studio window.



from my studio

## Boxed up and ready

#### Tuesday 19 May 2015

Here's Pentecost Trinity, my exhibition starting next week. We drive it and hang it this coming Friday. I've spent the last few hours making boxes and I certainly never expected to be a box maker. Octave was most interesting to box – one large box with spacers for all the eight paintings to snuggle in. Thanks to dear Mark, my landlord who makes huge signs, I've got heaps of cardboard to use. They're tied up with random ribbons I collect/save/squirrel away. Twine breaks and string can cut into my hands, so woven ribbon is both the strongest and kindest to use. It can make a rather twee looking heap of boxed works, but there we are.



Boxed up and ready

## **Exhibition and News**

#### Saturday 25 April 2015

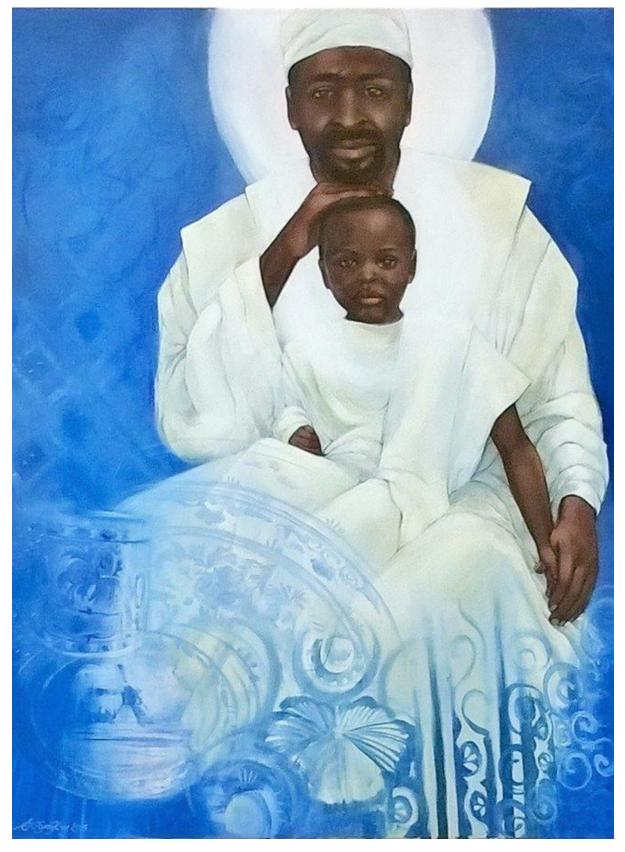
Though this may be a surprise, it never occurred to me to use my blog for anything other than things to do with my exhibitions and images. There we are. After a delightful conversation today, I had a 'duh' moment and here I am.

An exhibition calls happily to start on May 25th at The United Reformed Church house, due to hang until nearly the end of November. Delight bubbles up. Here's a detail from Padonna, a piece which questions power, empire, men, women and how God could have been incarnate. My usual simple subject matter then!



# Padonna, a Holy Week finish

# Tuesday 31 March 2015



# Sophia

#### Thursday 22 January 2015

Sophia is a name for Wisdom. Wisdom is often the name of the Holy Spirit in the Hebrew scriptures. In this piece, Sophia is that wisdom, personified in the peaceful profile of the woman in the centre, floating rather Pre-Raphaelite in the water which flows through the piece. A few years ago, I saw a TV programme suggesting that the Garden of Eden was most likely a reality, was a typical mosaic tiled formal garden space and most likely used as inspiration for the Biblical narrative (<u>http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0101vp3</u>). I received this canvas from Luke in his huge bequest of art materials and many of these squares were already painted. In my 'paining out the brush' moments, I filled in squares and then began to see much more. This became the garden overlaid by the mythical apple and breaking apart. Tiles fall off, bricks fall over. Some goes sideways with the walls/floors on the left, the tree blooming sideways across the view. Tiles become buildings, almost tower blocks. Out of one red apple coloured wall, a man emerges from the wall suggesting such a merging with a foundation narrative of some forms of faiths, that it is hard to see the person for the structure.



## **Revealed - Tabernacle**

#### Thursday 22 January 2015

This is Tablernacle, the commission for The Church at Carrs Lane. Much more information is on its page.



# **Exodus**

### Thursday 22 January 2015

This was a surprising finish just before Christmas. It started one day when I was listening to the news. Bloodshed, bombing, broken promises; I came to the studio and grabbed paint. Then I did my usual painting out of my brushes at the end of any studio day. Slowly, I began to see the middle shadows as people shapes and I began to see the pillar of light on the left and the pillar of cloud on the right. The cloud is in a hot yellow sky, filled with fumes of war and injustice. The light is in a cool blue sky, the shadows of explosion still quite fresh. A tiny yellow person stands out from the crowd - not a yellow coward, but a luminous figure making a way through it all. I will get a better photo!!!



# Waiting for the big reveal

## Saturday 29 November 2014

Covered in advent purple, here is Tabernacle, mounted and waiting. Tomorrow, the first Sunday in Advent, all will be revealed.



## Tabernacle packed and ready to go

## Thursday 27 November 2014

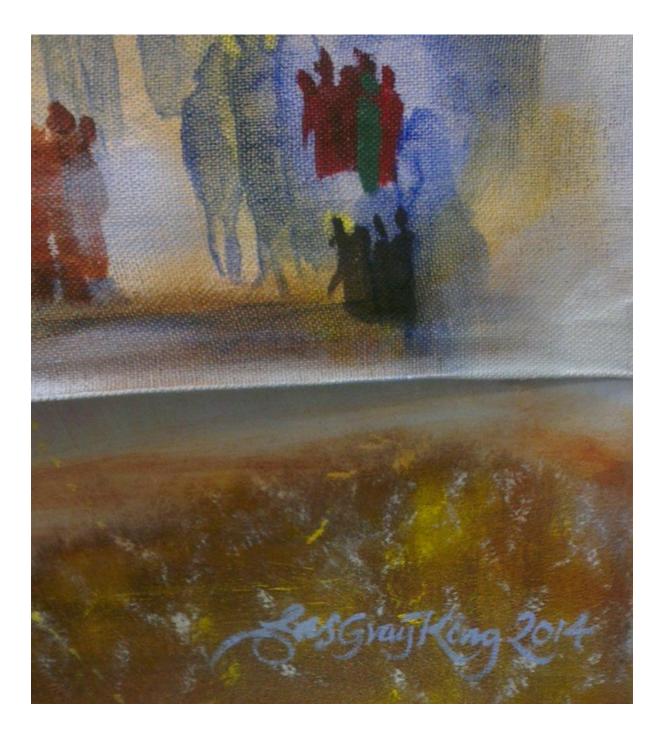
Here it is, the first full viewing. Well, when unpacked, that is. Tabernacle, the piece for The Church at Carrs Lane, Birmingham, is ready for tomorrow's journey to be installed. Unveiling happens on Sunday!



# The commission is complete!

## Monday 17 November 2014

Here we are - the signature finishes it off. This is the bottom right hand corner of the work for The Church at Carrs Lane. The title and the rest of the piece, which includes a table top and a plinth, will have its big reveal on the 30th of November. Watch this space :-)



## **Busy studio**

## Monday 16 June 2014

This is what I like to see. Exhibition packed up ready to go, commission piece drying with yet another coat of varnish, workshop materials ready. Reaching out to Birmingham, Sherwood and Cambridge from my happy place in Braunston. Yes.



# Listening Hard

## Wednesday 30 April 2014

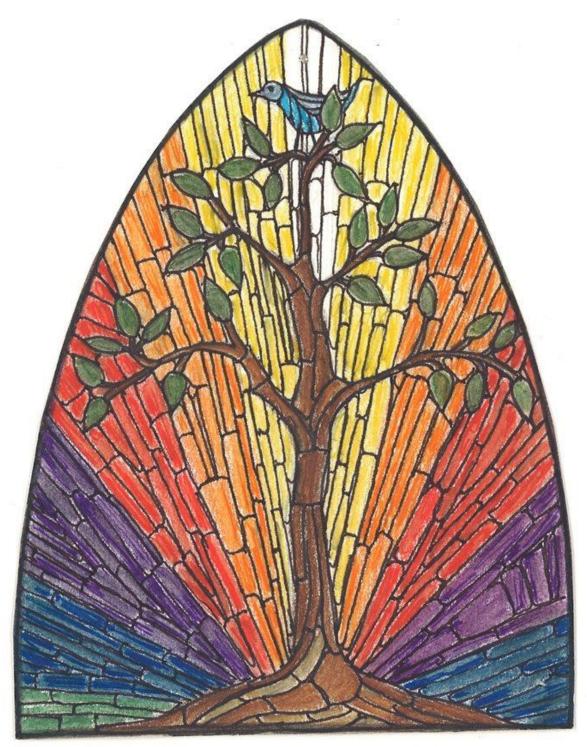
Here's my listening during South Western School where I'm leading Bible Studies.



# My little stained glass in REFORM

## Wednesday 19 February 2014

Delighted to see this! <u>http://www.urc.org.uk/media-news/1345-education-sunday-an-odd-pair-of-words.html</u>



## My new sign! And celebration

## Friday 24 January 2014

Here's my new sign, so you can finally spot my studio on the A45 in Braunston, between Rugby and Davenrtry. It's my celebration of a church commission and an exciting arts development. More on that anon!



## Word Becomes Flesh in REFORM

#### Saturday 14 December 2013

Fun to open REFORM, the magazine published by the United Reformed Church, and see my work.



## In Print in support of Occupy

#### Thursday 12 December 2013

I do apologise to my dear colleague, Kevin. His fabulous book, <u>Occupying Faith:</u> <u>Resources for Worship, Meditation, Reflection & Study</u>, was published earlier this year and included images from my collection. I forgot to post it here! It is a stupendous book of the kind of deep thought and wisdom which the Occupy movement demands.

# Westhill Chapel, University of Birmingham Selly Oak

## Tuesday 03 December 2013

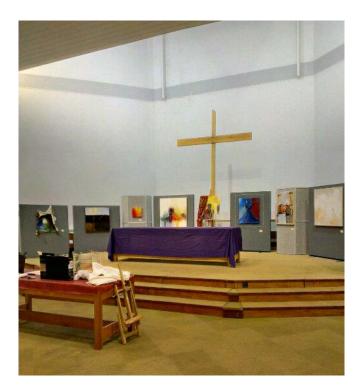
Here it is, a sudden view of 7 pieces from an unexpected invitation.



## Knowing Longing Exhibition hung at Carr's Lane Church Centre

#### Friday 22 November 2013

Here we are!



# ArtTalk and "I Am Your Neighbour" in this month's REFORM.

#### Tuesday 08 October 2013

Delighted to see this!



# Another finished! This is called One.

## Monday 02 September 2013

I must remember to bring a proper camera and not just my phone to the studio. But here it is. One. look very closely; all those little shapes are people.



# I Don't Know Yet - finished today!!

## Friday 02 August 2013

I know it's a bad shot. Better one coming! But it must have been a good holiday to finish a work on the first studio day back :-)



## ArtTalk Resource Pack - hot off the press!

## Thursday 01 August 2013

So here we are! A resource pack of 12 images to get discussions going in your churches and community groups. Order from the URC Mission Department urc@urc.org.uk. Enjoy!



# The Old Fire station, Oxford

## Friday 07 June 2013

Here we are - two pieces in the Oxford Pride Exhibition.



## We Know Only in Part at Oxford Jam Factory

## Friday 31 May 2013

We were at the opening of Oxford Pride tonight at the Oxford Jam Factory Gallery. Tucked up there in the corner is We Know Only in Part, hung in the main gallery. Word Becomes Flesh is hung at At St Columba's, with Be Set Free and Am I Free at Crisis Cafe. If you are in Oxford in the next few weeks, feel welcome to pop along.



# Today's sudden finished canvas - Leap.

#### Friday 03 May 2013

Well, here we are. I've had a frustrating set of weeks and issues just recently, as have some of my dear friends. None of us felt or feel this desperate, yet I know how many do. For some, this jump is a choice. For others, it is an odd last freedom in a disaster utterly out of their control.

This is a small piece, just 30cm square. Yet it has shocked me with its power. It's not the same hopeful message of Am I Free? though again there is a single figure in a fog. Sometimes we just have to acknowledge what is without trying to transform it. We'll only understand after the Leap.



# **Knowing Searching Exhibition Priest Hill March 2013**

#### Monday 18 March 2013

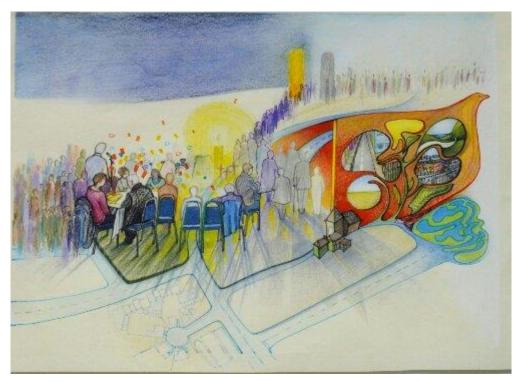
This is the eight piece Knowing Searching Exhibition at Priest Hill URC south Glasgow. This is its third stop, having just come from the Synod of Scotland meeting after Orchardhill. Laid out on tables, rather than hung on a wall, this shows that exhibitions can be anywhere. As ever, I had my trusty fabric box and a hall was transformed. What fun!



# Synod of Scotland March 2013

#### Sunday 17 March 2013

Here we are, three days' work and worship. I'll put up a full narrative later, but this is the visual reflection. What a good group...



# **Stunning Nativity**

#### Saturday 16 March 2013

I'm frequently on about how simple visual additions can lift something and perhaps make it more profound. This typical nativity set, though beautifully made, was just a nativity set. But then it was set up with hessian fabric (probably a grain bag) and white fabric streaming from the traditional star, through the core scene, to a lighted candle. What a difference. Thanks to a Facebook friend for posting this.



## Know Searching exhibit set up - Orchardhill Parish Church, Griffnock, Glasgow

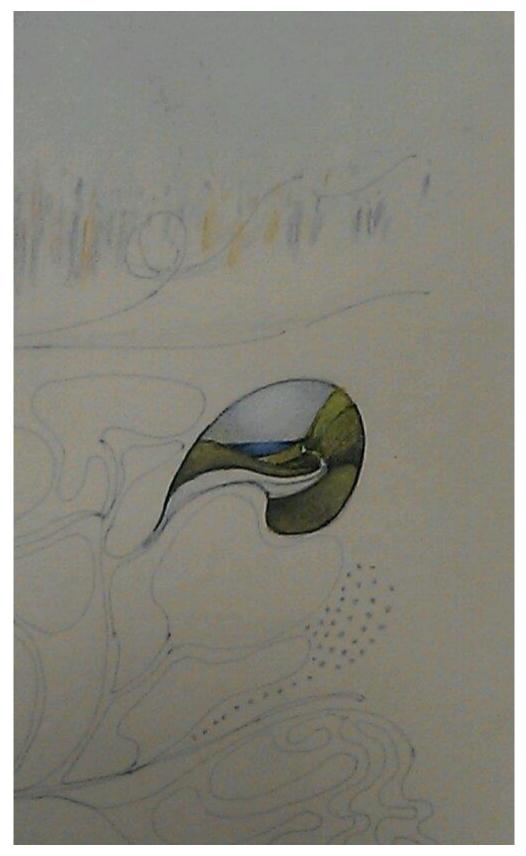
#### Wednesday 13 March 2013

It was quite a creative hanging day! A sloping floor, a variety of stands and easels, the genius of Gordon, and we got there. Good thing I packed my fabric box.

# My smallest landscape

## Friday 01 March 2013

Here we are. The Churches branching out in new directions, growing new journeys. This tiny landscape is about 2.2 cm!



# I Am Your Neighbour

### Friday 04 January 2013

I am so horrified about what we do to people in the name of (put name of conflict/issue/idol here). I have no idea what it takes to make a mind take up actions it takes up. Yet here is this young woman, like any neighbour we might have, forcing us to see the consequences. I do hope she makes us see more clearly.



# A surprising finish - Searching Knowing

## Tuesday 01 January 2013

Well here we are. We came to the studio to photograph finished pieces and lo and behold - a piece I was working on announced itself to be finished. So it needed to be signed. Here we are: Searching Knowing. The first signed of 2013.



# Unafraid

#### **Tuesday 20 November 2012**

This started in July 1993, when I was a member of the URC Doctrine and Worship Committee. A summer meeting of words, this was my doodle in the margins. I committed her to canvas this past summer and in my new studio, she gained colour. She always had her eyes to see and hear, and the dove whispering from the full spirit presence. Today I knew. She has no fear. Not in a reckless way, she's merely unafraid.



## **Perspective cheat**

## Friday 02 November 2012

Finally figured it out! I put nails on the top of the canvas where my perspective points are, then tied twine. I hold the twine in a line from the nail and swing it around to paint along it where I want objects to settle in perspective. Why didn't I think of this before??



## Am I Free. Signed as finished today, the first started in full from my new studio.

#### Monday 08 October 2012

This painting literally arrived. I stretched the canvas and painted the white gesso primer, but somehow didn't want the gesso to cover the whole canvas. I have a thing about the presence and absence of God. Both always (to me) true. So some of this canvas is opaque and some translucent. Then the person arrived, reaching out. Then the light, then the shadows. I couldn't tell if this was an active exuberant approach or fearful departure for him/her. I felt hesitancy. The question arose - Am I Free?



## Earth Mother finished again last Friday.

#### Friday 28 September 2012

Here she is, Earth Mother. Rather than mother earth, the planet, this is the planet's mother. Female Creator. I first painted her in my Cowley studio in 1999. But somehow she wasn't right. So I started again, almost painting out all I'd done before. This new mother emerged, racially ambiguous and fully one with the spinning world next to her heart.



### 2nd from the new studio - We Know Only in Part

#### Friday 21 September 2012

I started this painting some while ago, collecting the CDs and DVDs we had finished with and couldn't really be passed on. The top left is an individual canvas, stretched by Luke, the wonderful donor of a bulk of my supplies. That grew in my old studio on its own. The seven independent rectangles are also painted on pieces started by Luke. The center canvas is an enlarged painting of a drawing I did whilst listening to a theological conference on scripture. It was only in my new studio with all the room and light that I realised all of these fit together and indicate ways of knowing. As the Bible book of Romans tells us, in this life, we will only ever know in part.



## First from the new studio - I Am Your Neighbour Monday 17 September 2012

I am so horrified about what we do to people in the name of (put name of conflict/issue/idol here). I have no idea what it takes to make a mind take up actions it takes up. Yet here is this young woman, like any neighbour we might have, forcing us to see the consequences. I do hope she makes us see more clearly.



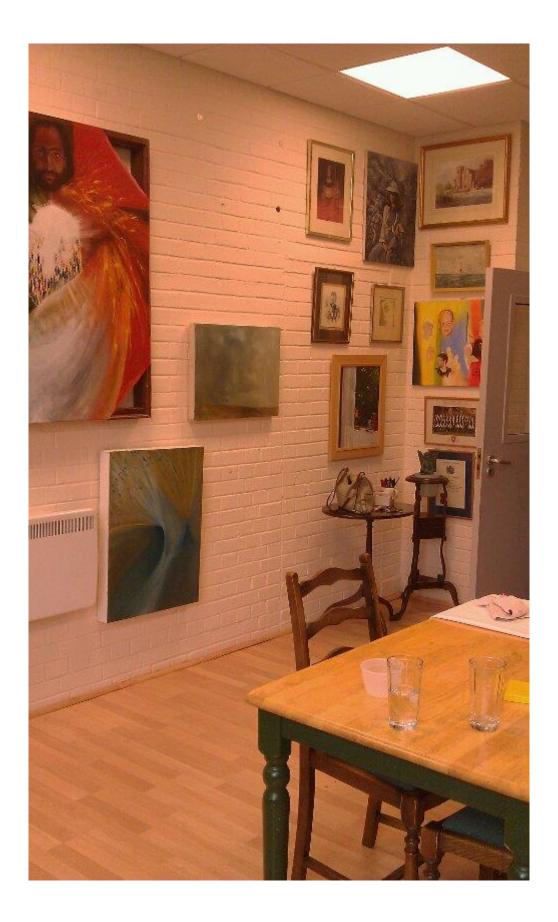
### The new Studio!

#### Sunday 02 September 2012

I'm thrilled. I packed up the studio from the old space on Friday. On Saturday, we packed all the furniture, supplies and canvasses into our boat, Bella. We then travelled the two hours south to Braunston and moored up by the Braunston Business park. Five hours later, all was in the new space and the storage frame was rebuilt. Today, all the boxes were unpacked, works in progress put up, paints set out and the whole place made ready. I'm thrilled!







## Nativity Tancred finally finished

Wednesday 01 August 2012



## Living Water - General Assembly residency piece done!

#### Monday 09 July 2012

I'll get better shots and do a write up, but here it is as of today - signed and finished. Delighted!



## The caged spirit and floating church

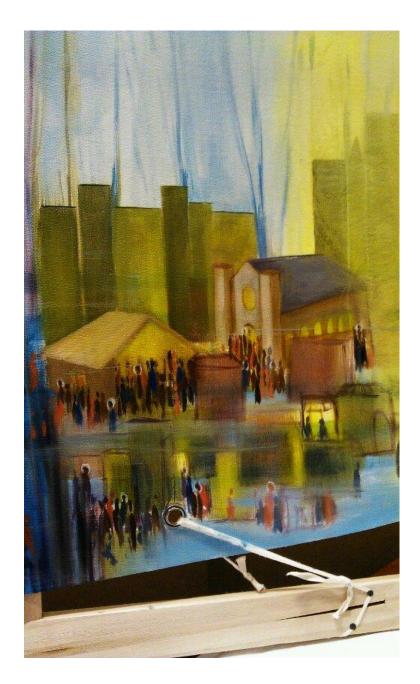
Sunday 08 July 2012



## **Church sinks and swims**

#### Sunday 08 July 2012

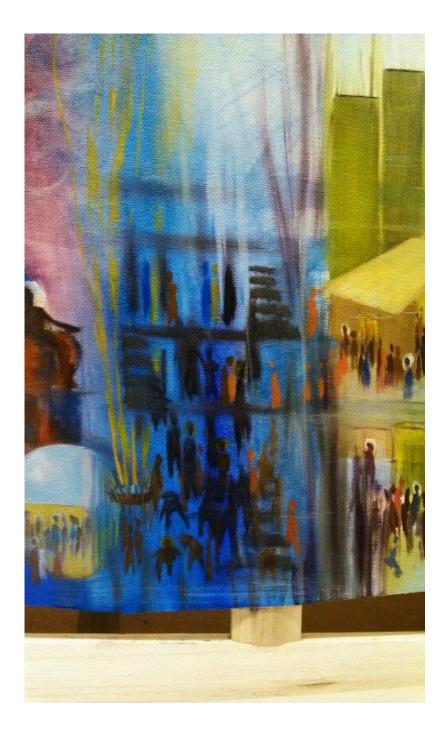
The church is many sizes, filled with wonderful variety and shines with light. Yet sometimes dear Holy Spirit is caged, people feel as if drowning and life's water feels murky indeed. The world towers around, yet there is rich green for change. In the thick bullrushes, the church of no shape and no roof floats to a new place.



### **Bible study on Moses**

#### Saturday 07 July 2012

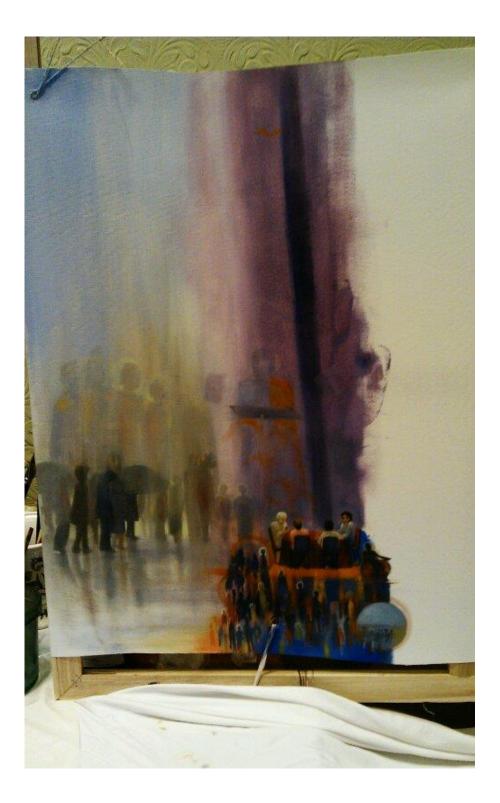
So this is oppressed people, stepping on the heads of each other, the tiny Moses basket tucked up on the bottom left, sending light to the future. Yes, Moses is a myth - but one that tells a huge truth. One believed to be dead yet brings blessing and law.



## The arrivals and discussion setting

#### Saturday 07 July 2012

So on the left is the rainy arrival, followed by the gathering around discussion tables. And all of that held by all the people of the URC who work to make it happen inspired by the nominations report.



## Setting up the "studio" at the back of Assembly Friday 06 July 2012



## Painting station set up

## Friday 06 July 2012



# Residency Canvasses for General Assembly ready to go

#### Sunday 01 July 2012

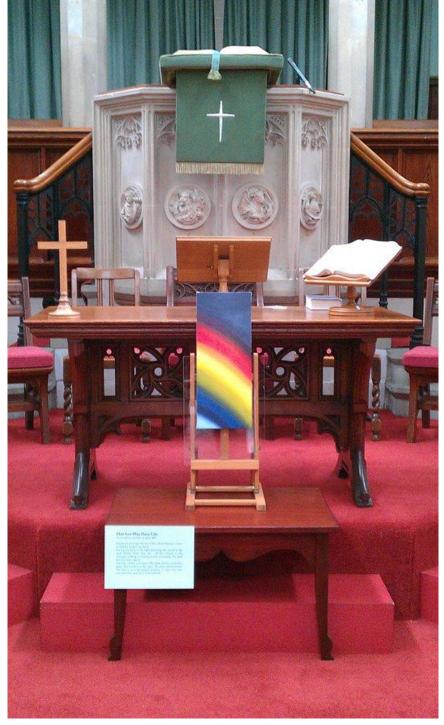
Here is the start. I couldn't turn up without a start, as the Assembly will move so quickly. The strip of canvas across all three pieces is a hint to the spread out scrolls of the Old Testament, our roots. The three panels hint to our Trinitarian foundation, and at the same time, point to the URC as a union of traditions. The frames, seen round the canvasses, hint to a framework to which we hope the union and professions of faith will fit. Yet the scroll ebbs and flows, tied in different ways to the framework, hinting to our variois attempts to see this union as harmonious. And we in the URC know that, though it is not always harmonious, it is somehow firmly linked - the solid hinges between the canvasses. And so I begin to paint the United Reformed Church General Assembly 2012 with what I know so far. My paints and brushes are now ready to hear. I've not read the book of reports as I want to hear and respond as one who hears afresh, even though much history is known.



## That You May Have Life

#### Friday 29 June 2012

That You May Have Life is the name of one of my paintings, and also the name of this Exhibition at The <u>Abbey United Reformed Church</u> during the Romsey Arts Festival July 2011. The exhibition title arose as the minister wanted to use the associated painting as the image for the church during Romsey's Festival.



## Another one finished

Friday 01 June 2012



## Residency set up

#### Friday 01 June 2012

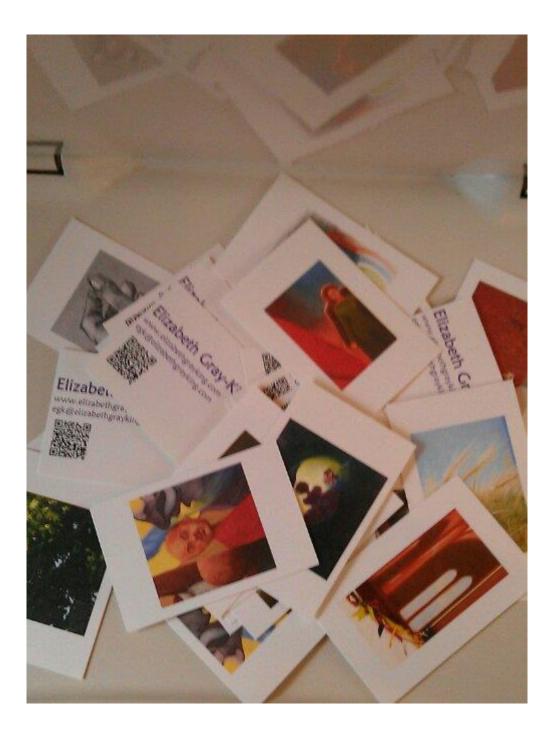
Here's my corner, set up and ready to go. I'm looking forward to watching what happens.



## New cards! And tiny pictures..

#### Thursday 12 April 2012

Here they are. My new business cards, each with a picture on the back. So far, there is a choice from 20 images. And on the front, a QR code to my website. What a world!



## Trinity coming together

#### Tuesday 03 April 2012

I'm not sure the final title of this, but it's working toward thoughts about trinity. Today, Light just had to show herself



## Forgiving Friday 04 March 2012

I wrote this a few years ago and posted it on my old blog. I bring it to this year, as it still lives for me:

Interesting time at Faith2Day at St Columba's today. We were talking of forgiveness, and if a person has to say sorry before they are forgiven. We concluded that there are two parts to forgiveness. One is the forgiver, the other is the one to be forgiven.

To forgive is liberating for the forgiver. To forgive is to let go of painful memory. To put down the burden of always (always) remembering that which was received (words, physical contact, or any other kind of personal diminishment) at the whim of another is stupendously liberating. I don't have to keep remembering what I want another to say sorry for.

For the one forgiven, the forgiver truly needs to hear what the forgiven needs to be forgiven for. An "I'm sorry" could cover anything and could be a cover for any real truth. I recall someone telling me about conversations at the near death of another, who asked to be forgiven. The relative said, "tell me what you are sorry for, and I will forgive." The one near death had no words - as the whole of that life was hiding truth. The one near death could not list what needed to be forgiven - to do so would be to acknowledge all s/he had done which caused pain to one other, let alone many others. Even so close to death, this person could not name truth.

Real forgiveness rises out of real truth. One just cannot be without the other. Though I rid myself of the burden of memory by 'forgiving' my perpetrators, it wasn't really forgiveness, as the 'forgiven' never knew. It was me laying down the need for my truth to be named and apologised for by another, which I called forgiveness. Yes it was liberating.

But forgiveness is, to me, a mutual exercise.