



Christ Church Wickford
Lent through Easter 2019

This exhibition is set out to ask us to become our Easter selves. It starts out with a tough self-focus at Ash Wednesday, then moves through the Lenten weeks taking us between learning more of ourselves and knowing more about God. Hopefully, with deep prayer and reflection, we can all become Easter itself - become the new life for all people, welcome Holy Spirit inside us because of Jesus' resurrection.

May you be blessed as you see, wonder, feel, and think.

Ash Wednesday Striving for Righteousness

Oil on canvas, gathered fabric | 2012 | 98x72cm

The Easter gospel applies to individuals as much as to groups of people and churches. This painting shows an individual deeply concentrated on trying to repent correctly. Striving to become right with God, the person focusses on self, literally cutting off a hand to place in the offertory bowl. Such studied self-focus hides the light shining in, the grace already present with no need for literal damage. Ash Wednesday calls us to repentance, yes, yet asks us to do so in the knowledge of God's grace which acted in our lives well before we were aware.



Lent 1

That You May Have Life

Oil on canvas mounted on glass | 2007 | 63x30cm

The Lent 1 readings are about calling humanity to trust God above all else. This painting alludes to the rainbow promise that God is trustworthy and it, by its title, reminds us of Jesus' promise to bring Life. To see rainbows, we stand with our backs to the light to face the dark. It takes trust to face the dark, whatever it is. In all of it, there is still light and colour.



Lent 2

From Which you were hewn

Oil on canvas, mounted on slate | 1999 | 25x51cm

Lent 2 tells of the huge blessings only possible from God and, that it is the whole of the human called to respond. This painting, when seen with guidance, shows bodies rising from the earth – primordial shaping, with the title reminding us that we have been made beyond our understanding and that the whole of our selves are called to God.

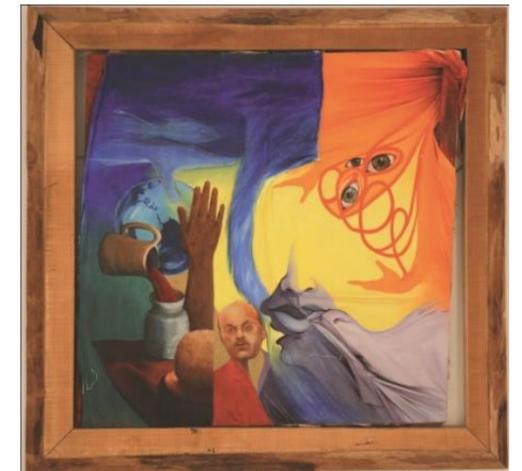


Lent 3

Wisdom Dove Speaks

Oil on Sewn canvas, tied and stretched on a shed window frame, surrounded by oak | 1992 | 84x83cm

Lent 3 is calling us to see as God sees, if possible, honouring all God has done and honouring each individual no matter what may be known. This painting summarises the creation story, seeing the world, and sharing in communion elements (and therefore justice). The right side depicts mysterious light, insight, and creativity.



Lent 4

I Don't Know Yet

oil on tied and stretched canvas | 2013 | 76x76cm

Lent 4 reminds us that God touches us when we probably don't know God is there. This person of unknown gender on the right, crouches wondering, stretching a hand to their inner selves. Deep inside, their inner selves grasp and wonder at light which is already present. The whole person sits atop classic metaphors for barriers. Sometimes we simply don't know yet if we can accept it.



Lent 5

Darkness is as Light to You

Oil on Board | 2007 | 64X101cm

Lent 5's message is strongly reminding us that it is God who gives life and we are called to renew ourselves by allowing ourselves to 'die'. This painting is a progression of that renewal, showing that even in the dark, God's light sparkles and then there is new grain from the 'dead' seed. The scripture title reminds us of that truth.



Palm Sunday

Witness

Oil on canvass | 2018 | 97x111cm

By both the Triumphal Entry passages and the Passion Sunday narratives, we are reminded that God is close at hand – and, building on the previous messages, may very well be in unexpected places (like desolation, trauma and war). The narratives tell of witnesses seeing a triumphal entry and of witnesses experiencing betrayal. This painting shows witnesses gathering around some kind of light. It could be a fine new thing, or it could be devastation. Whatever they see, they stand to see something amazing.



The Artist, Elizabeth Gray-King

Growing up as an artist and ballet dancer in the United States, Elizabeth received a fine arts degree from George Washington University in 1975. Moving to England in 1977, she was a professional painter and illustrator before being ordained as a United Reformed Church Minister in 1988, having been trained at Mansfield College, Oxford. At many individual times, she has designed clothing, from ballet costumes to clothes for women clerics contributing to her use of fabric in her works. A further degree in Education from Westminster College, Oxford, coincided with her setting up a social enterprise with her husband, Pete, within which she project manages research and other projects. She is employed part-time as the Education for Ministry (Phase 2/3) Officer for the United Reformed Church.

She exhibits widely, creates art works within worship and frequently acts as Artist in Residence in conferences. Her work comes out of this entire context - life, faith and design.

www.elizabethgrayking.com www.facebook.com/egraying/

Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday

oil on tied and stretched canvas | 1991 | 77x59cm

Lent 4 reminds us that God touches us when we probably don't know God is there. This painting's character is curled in a self-contained pain, but the rainbow fabric reminds the viewer of the rainbow promise that God is about life and is present when we can't see God. The character has a sense of this, yet the painting allows us as observers to see the truth. The title of the painting is from a Lenten time a little later on, but the subject of being called to know God even when we can't see God is a universal theme, here called up in the fourth week of Lent.



Easter

The Stone was Rolled Away

Oil on canvas with gauze and ribbon | 2007 | 90X40cm

The Easter message of this exhibition ends up at the Church where it began, the institution called to renewal as much as the people. The blaze of fabric and colour in the bottom right show an undefined renewal and the title reminds us of the resurrection event.

