



Believe in Shipley
Mission 2016
 Opening Service
 St Peter's Church
 25 September 2016

Artist in Residency observation



I started the piece by looking around the building and was struck by the reality that people were gathering in a much loved space. The building has held and seen much in its life, so the arches had to appear to let whatever happened in the service to be also held by this timeless building. The arched shapes appear all over the piece, imprinting the reality of the place onto the stores, hopes and dreams.



The poet speaks of his work and reads poems filled with vigour and hope. He speaks of the Trinity and the way his work is inspired by his faith. So, the poetry book is imprinted with the Celtic trinity symbol and the red swirls move up and down from heaven to earth. To me, red is always the colour of the Holy Spirit.



Here, we hear of the prophet Nehemiah, sent to Jerusalem to rebuild it. The prophet is red, clearly led by the Spirit. There are large brown buildings indicating new walls, and small angled brown buildings showing the present destruction. The red space is the gate of the walls, red as the Spirit want us to see them. We were encouraged to consider his call and his commitment to rebuild much in life. The blue buildings show buildings of our age, leading us to make this message alive in 2016.



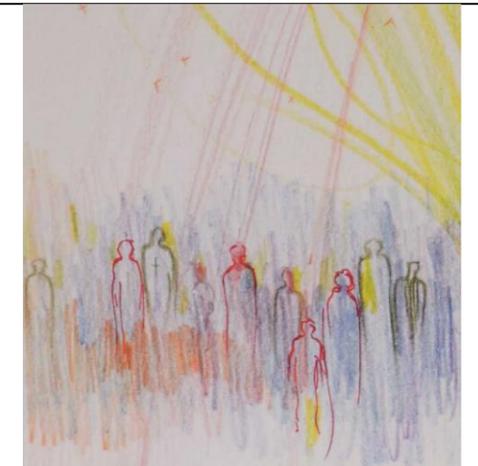
Here, through the lovely puppet Nicodemus tells us that we are all covered by the armour of God - not physical armour falling out of the sky - but Spiritual armour, filling our hearts, and giving us courage and strength to live our lives. The small people were the children physically listening - and the children in all of us who need to hear how we are filled and protected.



We heard that the clergy of Shipley "are still talking to each other", having been Spirit filled to keep working together. Another child collects Spirit life and offers it. The red, again, shows how the Spirit moves through people.



These people are those in Shipley, Saltaire, and the wider communities of west Bradford. We were told that the Spirit was already making a difference, with people telling of those who had been moved to link with churches since just before the mission began. The shocking streams of yellow are this Spirit movement - to me, yellow is always the presence of God.



This is the final picture of the service, hold the hope that some amongst those whom God has touched would become Spirit connected themselves. So some of these people have become red. A few have crosses on their chest. Light continues to flow, showing God moving with much energy.