

St John's Church - Arts 4U

Dear friends

It is some time since I took on the role of Arts Coordinator for our church and thought you would appreciate an update.

The launch in October last year was a huge success with over 600 visitors. The cross outside the new centre continues to have a positive impact, and just last week I gave copyright permission for another church to use the image in their Easter literature. I have also been contacted by Christian artists wanting to use our space for exhibitions and people enquiring when the Light of the World paintings will be in situ so they can bring groups to visit – all great news and certainly fulfilling one of my prayer that art at St John's would reach out far and wide to proclaim God's word.

Going forward I have designed an art event that, God willing, will give everyone in our church family (and also those they invite) the opportunity to contribute. This will be the second big event and will take place 1st to the 15th August. I have taken into account the fact that some people may be on holiday at this time and have made provisions to ensure everybody will get the chance to participate.

The title of this year's event is "**Thanks be to God - a personal response to the cross**". I'm very excited about this and, pray you will be too and support this by becoming involved.

In practical terms I will be asking everyone to make a clay object of thanks. Please, and I say this again – please - do not be put off by thinking you are not “arty” - the concept may be deep and spiritual, the outcome should be truly great, but the “arty” application can be as simple or as complex as you choose

There will be lots of guidance (but only if you want it). Workshops will be available and run at different times to accommodate diverse constraints in people's lives.

The event will culminate in placing your clay ‘object of thanks’ on a template laid on the floor of the Wardle hall in the form of a cross. This will then form an ‘art installation’ and be open to the general public during the second week of St John's Summer Art event.

More details will follow but for now you may like to start thinking about what you would particularly like to say thanks for – anything from food on the table to new birth.

I also want to include things to display around the hall – e.g., writings, small drawings on paper or poems. It would be great if you contributed something of this nature to accompany your clay object and I will display these around the hall – of course you do not have to put your name on this if you don't want to.

I pray that I've designed the art event sensitively and thoroughly to enable all of you to take part; that the installation, together with accompanying text, will depict a real positive outpouring of thanks; one that demonstrates our cohesiveness as a church family as we proclaim our unified thanks to our God. Let's pray that this will have a strong, positive impact on us all and the people who visit.

Yours in Christ

Dee