

My journey through Passiontide (part 1)

Before Passion Sunday I had been inspired to copy of the Caravaggio's painting, the Calling of St Matthew. I sent that to both priests by email.

I had found a style that I liked when I was painting the Christmas and Epiphany stories. From Mary greeting Elizabeth with joy, sitting with Mary in the stable pondering on what was said by shepherds, wisemen, the journey to Egypt also drawing emotional and facial expressions cartoon style. Cartoons like Minnie and Mickey Mouse, Winnie the Pooh etc were fun to do. Continuing with the epiphany stories, Jesus in the temple at 12, his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. Drawing emotions, scared, fearful, anxious, tired, were good practice for what was to come and I'm still learning.



During advent and Christmas I had felt close to Mary, she understood how I felt and I drew. I was moved emotionally as Simeon presented Jesus on candlemas, 40 days after Christmas Day. I painted these 7 scenes on one canvas, there was movement represented by a spiral pastel colour as a background. I was there with Mary, I was there when the wisemen visited, I was there walking alongside Mary, Joseph and Jesus as they travelled to Egypt. Photo is on page 3.



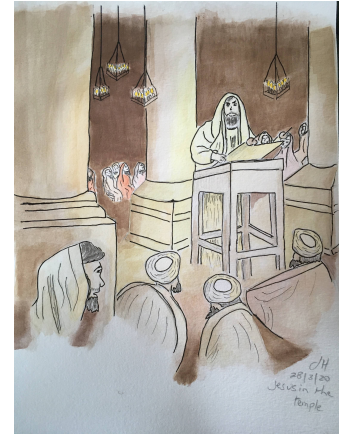
As I waited for the storms, high winds and rain to pass in February I continued sketching. The garden, sowing seeds in the greenhouse will have to wait. We watched Lowry and son, a film of the artist Lowry and his mother, who became famous for his matchstick men. I copied 3 of his paintings, at the dockyard, boats on a lake, sailing boats on the sea. I really enjoyed the challenge and using again watercolour, black ink pens and charcoal pencils. I drew and sang to the Status Quo song "matchstick men and you".

I'm drawing every day. Love it!

Lent begins..... I doodled little sketches as both the Collect and Prayer after Communion resonated with me on the first Sunday of Lent. Phrases - "every sinner has resolution" "we are not alone" "I eat Christ's body and drink his blood" "he walks with me" Faith is nourished, hope increased, charity strengthened. These sketches help me bring to life this my journey so far and the richness and blessings the church of St Giles and my weekly meditations are to me. Without them



Lent and second Sunday is a significant time as Father David gave us the picture of the Calling of St Matthew as I begin this journey through painting, sketching and cartoon drawing. My following 3 pictures came from the Gospel readings at Mass, the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus healing the blind man and Jesus in the temple teaching. I shared these with Fathers David and Tomas and Lucy our new intern.



By the 4th Sunday in Lent (Mothering Sunday) we are in self-isolation due to the coronavirus spreading around the world.

Father David then asked me to paint each Gospel reading throughout Passiontide. I felt truly humbled, honoured and as I started hands weren't right, faces drawn cartoon style, perspective odd but continued. As I settled into a daily routine of Mattins, breakfast, drawing, painting, searching the internet for images that struck me. I soon realised I needed breaks, so as the sun came out I was in the garden and greenhouse preparing seeds for germinating, our daily walks then coming back in to be inspired to draw again from the next Gospel Reading.

Evensong at 6pm prompts prayer and for the sick. I would then relax and sketch another idea! Compline constantly reminds me of my retreats back in the 1990's. The struggles then of bringing up 4 teens/children and the difficult balance of prayer and family life. Now as I continue to enjoy all 4 families of their own and 8 grandchildren I can relish the continuing prayer ending with compline and the opportunity of singing the hymn which I get wrong sometimes, the words and the tune lift my heart and soul bringing me closer, closer to God.. I haven't mentioned Mass which is an odd but dear experience. Although it's not at a set time, occasionally I've missed a day or so, I have it in my diary for midday. The opening and closing prayers remind me of why I do this and can partake in the Mass not as a bystander but in peace of mind, heart and body in this continuing isolated town, country and world. I can join with others knowing that they in their town, country and world are practising the same.

In this time I've realised I can't stop drawing! It's like a release, a way of expressing myself and practising, practising. I'm retired and I can choose to pursue a variety of hobbies, chickens, gardening, veg growing, singing and of course sketching. A week or so into self isolation I had painted a sunset using acrylics and blended the colours for sea and sky. The Gospel readings for that Wednesday was the verse "the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed". I looked at my sunset and thought, with birds flying that would create a sense of freedom. Friday before Palm Sunday the Gospel of the crowd wanting to stone Jesus was portrayed by the angry faces. The Saturdays Gospel was of Caiaphas prophesying as Father Tomas explained "Caiaphas does not understand that Jesus will not die just for one nation, "but to gather together in unity the scattered children of God".