

ARTICLES OF FAITH

20th February
to 8th April 2023

*WHERE OUR
PATHS MEET*



*An exhibition of works from the widely
acclaimed Methodist Modern Art Collection
with artefacts from other faith traditions*

www.vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk

Cover image:
Mark Cazalet, *Fool of God (Christ in the Garden)* @TMCP

Brochure design by Jim Brown.
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WELCOME
WELCOME
WELCOME

**Welcome to this exhibition, with its wide-ranging
programme of associated activities.**

**We hope you enjoy it, are changed by it, and tell
others about it.**

To my knowledge, this is the first time works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection have been exhibited alongside art/artefacts from other faith traditions. The title of the exhibition 'Articles of Faith' suggests those beliefs which people of faith hold close to our hearts. We do believe different things, yet we share so much, and when we get under the skin to the inner experience of practicing our faith, then we draw closer together. Hence the strapline, 'Where our paths meet'. We hope that those who are curious about religion, or who have no faith, will feel equally included.

So, the artworks and artefacts are gathered into 8 clusters, which relate to our common human spirituality:
hope, suffering, hospitality, relationship & mystery, justice & peace, text & story, life & death, compassion & service.

By grouping the works in this way, we hope that a 'conversation' will be opened up, as we view one

artwork/artefact/faith tradition in the light of others. Into this conversation we have deliberately introduced artefacts from Victoria Methodist Church itself (eg. font and lectern). For '**Articles of Faith**' also suggests that this is not just an exhibition of paintings and sculpture, but also includes items used at home or in a place of worship as people practice their faith.

The whole project has in fact been one long conversation on the part of the planning group, which has widened and deepened as we have been joined by people from faith traditions other than Christianity. It is my deepest hope, that an enduring legacy of this exhibition will be a contribution to the good relationships between people of different faiths in the City of Bristol.

The exhibition itself offers a unique opportunity to organise a programme of events. As you will see, these include themed preaching and prayer, a children's exhibition, workshops and school visits, poetry readings and music concerts, talks and shared meals.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all those on the planning group (from a variety of faiths), to our partners - the Royal West of England Academy of Art, Bristol School of Art (both based next door), Clifton Arts, the University of Bristol Department of Music, and finally to the Management Committee of the Methodist Modern Art Collection

Rev Richard Sharples

VISITING THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition will be open to the public from **Monday 20th Feb to Saturday 8th April.**

Admission is free

Mondays, Wednesdays and
Fridays: **11am - 4pm**

Tuesdays, Thursdays and
Saturdays: **11am - 6pm**

OPENING TIMES



The exhibition of school student artwork will be open in parallel to the main exhibition in the Undercroft at Victoria.

Guided groups of school students are welcome and arrangements can be made in advance for a tailored visit with some flexibility around opening hours by contacting vicmethevents@gmail.com.

Other group visits can also be arranged in advance. Refreshments will be served on Saturdays.

EVENING EVENTS

All events will take place at Victoria Methodist Church with the exception of the talk on 15th March. All events will also be listed on Eventbrite.

Some will need to be booked in advance and this will be highlighted in the event description.

Christians have sometimes used John's Gospel as an exclusive text. In this guided meditation Richard Sharples, Minister at the Church, will bring some of the 'I am' sayings from the fourth gospel alongside the artworks in four of the themed areas and open up a way which is inclusive, compassionate, life-giving and hope-filled.

THURSDAY 23rd FEBRUARY

7.30pm

Reflection on selected works
with Rev Richard Sharples



Sharing Sacred Texts:
Text and story; Life and Death; Suffering.
These three sessions will be interfaith conversations led by the University of Bristol Interfaith Chaplaincy.

MONDAYS 27th FEBRUARY, 6th & 20th MARCH

7.30pm

TUESDAY 28th FEBRUARY

7.30pm

Talk by Sarah Middleton:
'The Methodist Modern Art
Collection - discovering Jesus'



Sarah Middleton (MA, Arts & Cultural Management) shares reflections on how this treasure of the art world came to be owned and developed by the British Methodist Church.

City galleries, schools, churches and cathedrals from the UK mainland to the Isle of Man have all exhibited this Collection during its 60 years. Sarah brings insights from the visitors' books, gallery education events and worship involving the paintings as she invites conversation around images in the Collection, and how they might speak to diverse audiences today.

Sarah's academic research has involved study of the cultural value of the Methodist Modern Art Collection in twenty first century Britain. Following her MA at the University of Sussex, she co-produced interpretative guides and encouraged churches to engage with the Collection. She is a Methodist Local Preacher and has worked for many years in Connexional and Regional roles collaborating on new worship and study material for the Church in Britain.

This event is organised jointly with the Ecumenical Lent Conversation Team.

TUESDAY 7th MARCH 7.30pm

Alison McTier: **Finding Rest and Refreshment at the Well - Reflecting on the Retreat Association Icon of the encounter of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman**

Alison will lead a reflective session on the Retreat Association icon based on a well-known Gospel passage, akin to that of a quiet morning.

Alison is Director of the Retreat Association with overall responsibility for the leadership of the charity. She is a spiritual director and retreat leader. She also enjoys walking and photography.

This event is organised jointly with the Ecumenical Lent Conversation Team.



WEDNESDAY 15th MARCH

7.30pm at Royal West of England Academy (RWA)

Alison Bevan:
Art and Faith in the West of England, 1880-2020 - from the Newlyn School to the present day

Alison is an expert on the Newlyn School, having been Director of Penlee House Gallery and Museum Penzance (1999-2013) where the works of the Newlyn, Lamorna and St Ives colonies are exhibited. She has lectured on the subject in the UK and internationally.

Alison Bevan is Director of the RWA (Royal West of England Academy) - England's only regional Royal Academy of Art and Bristol's first Art Gallery. She joined the RWA in September 2013 and recently completed a transformational capital project that will secure its place at the heart of the region's cultural life. After graduating in Art History from Nottingham University in 1986, Alison spent a 14-year career in public galleries in Wales. She is a Fellow of and Mentor for the Museums Association; an Honorary Research Fellow of the University of Bristol, and was Chair of the South Western Federation of Museums and Galleries from 2009-12. She was awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2013 New Year's Honours for services to Cultural Heritage in Cornwall.

This event is organised jointly with the Ecumenical Lent Conversation Team.



TUESDAY 21st MARCH

Evening concert

The University Singers will perform music linked to the exhibition.

7.30pm



THURSDAY 23rd MARCH

Harry Baker & friends:
"Poetry and Stuff"

An evening of performance poetry with Harry Baker and Friends, with much laughter and honesty, as they reflect upon living life faithfully from their different religious traditions.

World Poetry Slam

Champion Harry Baker is a poet and a maths graduate. He writes about important stuff like hope, dinosaurs and German falafel-spoons. His work has been shared on TED.com and viewed millions of times worldwide, as well as being translated into over 20 different languages. When there's not a global pandemic on, he performs all over the country and has really really missed live gigs.

"Harry Baker's intricate, quick-fire rhymes have always been on the impressive side of mind-blowing." The Scotsman

This event will need to be pre-booked on Eventbrite.

TUESDAY 28th MARCH

7.30pm

One life, several (interlocking) careers: Clive Hicks-Jenkins in conversation with Rebecca Gibbs

Clive Hicks-Jenkins in conversation with Rebecca Gibbs, a creative producer and a member of the Management Committee of the Methodist Modern Art Collection. Clive Hicks-Jenkins was born in Newport in 1951, and his first careers were as a choreographer and a stage director.

During the 1990s he concentrated on painting, but in recent years he has broadened his practice to embrace, once again, the performing arts and, increasingly, book illustration. He has, for example, worked on an animation of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* and in 2019 he collaborated with Simon Armitage on an illustrated version of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. In 2022 he prepared illustrations for Olivia McCannon's *Beauty & Beast*, a radical reworking of the tale that engages provocatively with issues of pollution and climate change. This year sees the publication of an edition of Seamus Heaney's translation of *Beowulf* with his haunting illustrations.

Simon Callow has called Clive 'one of the most individual and complete artists of our time' and Nicholas Usherwood in *Galleries* has described his work as 'reflective, expressive painting of the highest order.' His work "*Christ writes in the Dust*" features in our exhibition.

This event is organised jointly with the Ecumenical Lent Conversation Team.



GOOD FRIDAY

7th APRIL

7.30pm

At the Foot of the Cross

An evening of dramatic readings and music. Performed by members of the Vic community and friends, led by Chris Morison and Lyn Lloyd-Jones.



LUNCHTIME EVENTS

All held at Victoria Methodist Church 1 - 2pm.

Details of the concerts will be advertised on the Victoria Methodist Church website when they become available.

WEDNESDAY

22nd FEBRUARY & 15th MARCH

Concerts by University
of Bristol Musicians

TUESDAY

4th APRIL

Reflection on selected works
with Rev Richard Sharples

of the themed areas and open up a way which is inclusive, compassionate, life-giving and hope-filled.

Christians have sometimes used John's Gospel as an exclusive text. In this guided meditation Richard Sharples, Minister at the Church, will bring some of the 'I am' sayings from the fourth gospel alongside the artworks in four



THURSDAY 2nd MARCH

**Two Generations;
One (changing) Collection**

A dialogue between two generations of the Gibbs family about their experience of the Methodist Modern Art Collection, its history and the challenges it poses.

James Morel Gibbs, born 1942, watched the collaboration between his father, John Morel Gibbs, and the Rev Douglas Wollen that found expression in the establishment of the Methodist Collection of Modern Christian Art. After obtaining a degree in the Arts Faculty of Bristol University, James pursued an academic career as a teacher and researcher, a playwright and a director both in Africa and the UK. James' daughter Rebecca, gained a degree in Art in a Community Context with Drama and Theatre Studies at the University of Roehampton. She is a cultural and community development consultant.

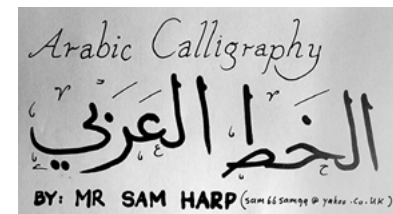
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WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY 4th MARCH

11am - 1pm for adults
2pm - 4pm for children aged
10 and above

Invitation to Arabic Calligraphy



Welcome to this opportunity to hear about the importance of Arabic Calligraphy in Islam and to have a "hands on" taster session writing simple characters in Arabic Calligraphy. The workshop will be led by Munira Hashmi the Muslim Chaplain at Bristol University and Sam Harp a local artist and calligrapher.

SATURDAY 11th MARCH

11am - 1pm & 2pm - 4pm for
children aged 7 and above

An opportunity for children to explore the exhibition and respond to it through arts and crafts.



SUNDAY 19th MARCH

2pm for children aged 7 and
above, parents also welcome

Judaism workshop

An introduction to Jewish Story Telling and Dance led by members of the Orthodox Synagogue.



An Indian Experience

Indian dance performance

A play performed by children.

An opportunity for children and adults in the audience to try out Bollywood-style dancing.

Sharing of food.

Live music.

This event will need to be pre-booked on Eventbrite

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10.30am

Everyone is welcome to worship at Victoria. The theme each week will chime with the themes of the exhibition. Rev Ruth Gee, a past President of the Methodist

Conference and past member of the MMAC Committee will lead worship on Sunday 19th February and Rev Dr Jonathan Pye, the Chair of the Bristol Methodist District will lead the Easter Service on Sunday 9th April at the end of the exhibition.

**SATURDAY
25th MARCH
From 6pm**

ENGAGING WITH SCHOOLS

ART COMPETITION

The competition will be for three age groups:

**7-11 years
11-14 years
and 15-18 years**

be vouchers for art materials. The closing date for submissions is the **31st January 2023**. The panel of judges will be chaired by the Director of the RWA (Royal West of England Academy) and will include a young art student and a member of Bristol Refugee Artists Collective. All the prizewinners' art will be featured in the parallel exhibition with as many other contributions as can be accommodated. We can offer visits and guided tours for groups of students (both primary and secondary) for both exhibitions. We are happy to explore with you the best way for your students to engage with the displays and to work out a programme together.

Everything is free of charge.

Please contact
vicmethevents@gmail.com for more

To open the opportunity to engage with the exhibition to as many school age students as possible, we are holding an **art competition** and parallel exhibition of children's/young people's artworks. Entries of work that relates to any of the themes explored in the exhibition: compassion and service, hope, hospitality, justice and peace, life and death, relationship and mystery, suffering, and text and story are welcomed. Prizes will

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

19th Feb
10.30am

Opening worship all
welcome

20th Feb
11am

Exhibition opens to the
public

22nd Feb
1pm

University Music Concert

23rd Feb
7.30pm

Reflection on selected
works led by Rev Richard
Sharples

27th Feb
7.30pm

Sharing Sacred Texts led
by members of the UoB
Multifaith Chaplaincy
Team

28th Feb
7.30pm

'The Methodist Modern
Art Collection -
Discovering Jesus'
Talk by Sarah Middleton
- Art Educator

2nd Mar
1pm

Two Generations;
one changing Collection,
James & Rebecca Gibbs

4th Mar
11am & 2pm

Introduction to Arabic
Calligraphy workshops
led by Munira Hashmi
and Sam Harp

6th Mar
7.30pm

Sharing Sacred Texts led
by members of the UoB
Multifaith Chaplaincy
Team

7th Mar
7.30pm

'Finding Rest and
Refreshment at the Well'
Talk by Alison McTier
-Director of Retreat
Association

11th Mar
11am & 2pm

Children's Workshops -
Responding to the
exhibition through arts
and crafts

15th Mar
1pm

University Music Concert

15th Mar
7.30pm

'Art and Faith in the West
of England 1880 to 2020'
Lecture by Alison Bevan -
Director of RWA

19th Mar
2pm

Children's Workshop -
Introduction to Jewish
Story Telling, Singing and
dancing led by members
of Orthodox Synagogue

20th Mar
7.30pm

Sharing Sacred Texts led
by members of the UoB
Multifaith Chaplaincy
Team

21st Mar
7.30pm

University Singers
Concert

23rd Mar
7.30pm

'Poetry and Stuff' An
evening of Performance
Poetry with Harry Baker
and friends

25th Mar
6pm

An Indian Experience"
Dance, Food and Live
Music

28th Mar
7.30pm

Clive Hicks-Jenkins in
conversation with
Rebecca Gibbs. CHJ is an
artist with a work
featured in the exhibition

4th Apr
1pm

Reflection on selected
works with Rev Richard
Sharples

7th Apr
7.30pm

'At the Foot of the Cross'
An evening of dramatic
readings and music by
the Vic community

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Methodist Modern
Art Collection

THANK YOU for financial contributions from:

Bristol Methodist District
Morel Trust
CASS Art

You can find the **Victoria Methodist Church** at:



Victoria Methodist Church
1A Whiteladies Road
Clifton, Bristol BS8 1NU

Accessible parking for blue badge holders can be booked in advance by contacting **vicmethevents@gmail.com**.

Throughout the period of our exhibition four additional works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection are on display at the New Room, 36 The Horsefair, Bristol BS1 3JE.



www.vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk
www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection
www.facebook.com/VicMethodistArticlesOfFaith