

ArtServe newsletter
March/April 2024

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Welcome to an edition bursting full of inspirational events as we approach Easter and Spring. Events include Passion plays, exploring works of art in Cathedrals, writing and mixed media competitions, festivals and resources from the ArtServe website.

Blessing Quilts

At the 2023 ArtServe Festival, Michelle Pickering led a workshop on creating mini blessing quilts. She has now published her instructions so that members can enjoy making and sharing the quilts.

This article is the members area of our website, so a login is required.

[Read more](#)



Deepening the Mystery:
"Unexpected treasures" of art

1 March – 7 April 2024

Focolare Centre for Unity

69 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6JG

Tuesdays – Fridays, 11am – 4pm

Saturdays – Sundays, 2pm – 5pm

(Free entry)

The Focolare Centre for Unity is holding its first art exhibition on the theme of Lent and Easter. Twenty-five paintings have been selected from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, including *The Empty Tomb* by Richard Bavin.

The exhibition will be closed to the public every Monday, and on Saturday 16 March, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

There are also other public events to accompany the exhibition including a music and poetry evening on Wednesday 27 March.

[Further details about the exhibition](#)

[More about the collection and future dates](#)

Richard Bavin's The Empty Tomb from the Methodist Modern Art Collection
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Passion Plays

[UK Passion Plays](#) has a list of Passion plays happening across England, and an interactive map.

Places include Edinburgh, Dudley, Stratford Upon Avon, Leicester, Oxford and London (Trafalgar Square).



Spring Creative Writing Competition

The Association of Christian Writers (ACW) is running a spring writing competition entitled "Renewal" inspired by Isaiah 40:30: *But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

The word limit is 1000 words and any genre accepted. For non-members there is a fee of £3 for one entry and £5 for two.

The prize is a book token for first, second and third winners.

Closing date: Thursday 25 April 2024.

[Further details](#)

Holy Week Reflective Space: A reflective space in the midst of our busy lives

ArtServe members, Michelle and Gill invite you to share Holy Week with them at Bath Methodist Church, Epworth Court, Bath Road, Swindon, SN1 4BA.

We can all benefit from times of quietness and reflection, time to recharge our batteries and refresh our spirits - although this can be hard to achieve in our busy lives. We hope that our mindfully designed, sensory pathway will provide you with such an opportunity.

Bath Road is hosting a meditative, sensory pathway so we can journey together through the events of Holy Week. Take some time for yourself to relax, and enjoy some space for reflection and contemplation as a counterbalance to the intensity and pressures of our daily lives.

In addition to the pathway there will be opportunities to reflect at various prayer stations; unwind at the journaling and colouring table, take part in the creative activity linked to the day's theme, and, of course, enjoy some refreshments.

Timing: 10am to 12 noon, Monday 25 March to Friday 29 March
10am to 4pm, Saturday 30 March.

There is no charge for this event. All are welcome. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times, thank you.

We hope you can join us, Michelle and Gill.



Joy in Ageing Poetry/Art/Multimedia Competition

This competition from the charity Embracing Age are looking for entries which celebrate the joys of ageing through a variety of media forms.

Embracing Age is a Christian charity working towards a world where older people are valued, connected and full of hope, by combatting loneliness, mobilising volunteers, equipping churches and speaking out.

Anyone over the age of 50 can enter the competition by email or by post.

Shortlisted poems and artwork will be published in an anthology to celebrate International Older Peoples Day on 1 October 2024.

Closing date: 30 April 2024.

Further details including competition guidelines are [here](#)



Radius Playwriting Competition

Radius (faith and drama bringing people across the country together) has a competition for stage play scripts of length 45-75 minutes.

Entry fee £10, prize £750.

Closing date for entries: Tuesday 7 May 2024, 5pm.

Full details, including more about the type of plays they are interested in are [here](#).

Threads through Creation 2024 touring dates

'Threads through Creation' is a sequence of twelve huge textile panels touring Cathedrals across England. It's a creative retelling of the creation story in the book of Genesis by artist Jacqui Parkinson.

6 March to 14 April
[Blackburn Cathedral](#)

17 April to 2 June
[Lichfield Cathedral](#)

5 June to 17 July
[Leominster Priory](#)

[Information about the artist](#)



Festival of Faith and Music

Friday 26 to Sunday 28 April 2024
Various venues in York

This is the first Festival of Faith and Music, brought to you by the Church Times in association with the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music). There will be an exciting and engaging range of speakers, discussions and workshops, including a keynote speech by the Archbishop of York, and special services held in York Minster. This event is for clergy, music leaders, people involved in church music, and those with a general interest in sacred music.

Discounts will be available to RSCM members and Church Times subscribers.

[Further information](#)



Ecclesiart in Cathedrals

Art and Christianity seeks to foster and explore the dialogue between art, Christianity and other religious faiths. Ecclesiart in Cathedrals is a programme of tours in Cathedrals focusing on the works of art in each one.

Winchester Cathedral

Thursday 21 March 2024, 14:00-15:00 £20.00

Liverpool Cathedral

Friday 10 May 2024, 11:30-15:30 (two tours) £40.00

Llandaff Cathedral

Friday 13 September 2024, 12:00-13:00 £20.00

[Further information, dates and booking](#)

ArtServe Members Questionnaire

We want to engage more closely with our members. With that aim in mind, we have compiled a short questionnaire to discover how members currently interact with ArtServe, and to give them an opportunity to tell us what else ArtServe might do, and how we can encourage and equip them in their creative journeys.

The questionnaire will be emailed to all members later this month. Please give it some thought, and take a little time to complete it.

Online Members' Chat

14th of each month at **7.30 pm**.

Find the Zoom link on the ArtServe closed Facebook group, or email

admin@artserve.org.uk to

request it (members only). Note

that when the 14th is a Sunday the

session moves to 7.30 pm on the

following Monday (the 15th day of

the month).



Membership brings more

ArtServe is a movement of people discovering and reflecting God's creative gifts shared among us, so that God is known more fully and lives are transformed.

Members receive our magazine by post and can download past issues. The current edition includes an article on bringing the Bible to life through creative writing, a reflective dialogue for Lent, poetry and an update on the British Methodist Choral Society. We share ideas and encourage each other via our closed Facebook group, which complements our public [Facebook page](#).

Membership costs £25 per year and gives a discount on some events. New members get the current magazine plus a selection of back numbers (while stocks last).



Events to share in future newsletters?

We welcome news of forthcoming events or opportunities anywhere in the UK that celebrate or encourage Christian creativity. Send contributions to news@artserve.org.uk

A separate image to illustrate text is useful, plus a website with more detail if available. Please note we cannot use attachments such as pdfs.

All material must be shareable in the public domain without infringing copyright and within data protection and safeguarding rules. We cannot guarantee publication and reserve the right to edit material.

The next edition is planned for mid May. The email address above is for newsletter items only. Please see our website for other [contact details](#).



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