

Friends of the Reflection Gallery

"Reflecting faith's experience"

An activity of the Montville Uniting Church

Greetings to you Friend, especially for this New Year of 2023.

There is a wonderful new display in the Church Gallery. Our Bush Christmas display received many positive comments and we now look forward to a new display by Wendy Jarrott-Smith which we assembled today.



The walls of the church have come alive with Wendy's colourful, vibrant, abstract, acrylic paintings that, together with explanatory material, give eloquent expression to her rich faith experience. Wendy writes, *when you visit, you will notice that the focus for all my paintings in this display, is on words with the prefix 'RE'. From my primary school lessons, I remember that the prefix, 'RE' means 'Back or again'. Each of the paintings reflects the spirit of 'having another chance'... 'turning back to your truth'..... 'starting fresh'..... 'connecting again'. As you look at my paintings on display, please take time to read the accompanying thoughts, for they express the 'soul' of my work, and complement my mark-making on the canvas.....May both the 'words and paintings' be an encouragement to you on this part of your journey of life.*

I started painting about 6 years ago, when an unexpected illness gave me more time and 'creative space' in my world, to be able to commit to painting and writing more regularly. I would call myself an 'acrylicolourist', as I find myself drawn to using acrylics in a vibrant palette, as my main medium. My preferred style is 'abstract and large', but for this exhibit, I have painted smaller pieces.

Abstract painting gives me the freedom to conceptualise how our lived experiences shape our humanity, and to observe the 'rub' between the temporal and eternal worlds, through these experiences. The Celtic Christians would describe this space between the temporal, material world and the eternal world, as a 'thin place', and it is in the 'thin places' in our lives, that we often see the hand of God.

I have found this to be true in my life. And for that I am very thankful.

Thank you, Wendy, for sharing your witness with us in this way.

Thank you for the support of those who open the church each day.

Please continue to pray for the Gallery and its outreach, for the people that visit it, for George and Bernadette Woodwood for their arrangement of the Bush Christmas and it's banner, and for the artists whose paintings surrounded us on the walls..

Grace and peace to you.

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