

Hopeweaver Reflective Creativity – Spring 2011

Hopeweavers offer opportunities for **Quiet Days and Community Days** from our base just outside Southampton, Hampshire. During our time together we seek in silence to draw closer to God, and we offer space and facilities to engage creatively in a number of ways. Most popular recently are weaving without a loom, collage and journaling, painting and clay work. Suggestions for starting points can be found in a series of simple leaflets entitled 'Reflective Creativity at Hopeweavers'.

In addition we are pleased to be able to offer a range of creative experiences for those who choose to become more involved. We believe that we can all be creative. In our experience we have seen how some are called to explore creativity as part of their understanding of a relationship with God, and how some can develop work from which they can earn an income. We hope to encourage all those who want to discover more. Our work includes:

Tardisart - a peer-led group for practising artists in a variety of media;

Thornhill Art Group - currently led by 2 artists from the team.
A place for local people to take time out to explore their creativity;

Individual tuition and mentoring - in small groups or on an individual basis.
To explore your developing artistic practise in a safe space to dream and to learn; and

Creative workshops - at the studio or in your own setting - we have worked in cathedrals, churches, church halls, community buildings, and in private homes, offering a range of opportunities to all ages.

Our **creative workshops** are very popular and we usually plan our input to suit your setting. When you contact us, we can discuss any particular forms of creativity as a starting point, any other requirements (CRB checks, health and safety considerations) and then we can fit people and resources to your needs. In terms of payment, we do not want finances to stop you from becoming involved with Hopeweavers. We rely on donations for all our work and do sometimes need to charge a small amount for art materials. Sometimes, larger churches, community groups and organisations are able to give us £150 - £200 a day for this ministry, most of which is gifted to the artists who share their expertise as session leaders, and is very gratefully received. This particularly helps to contribute to those times when we work where this is not at all possible and we know that your situation is unique.

The following page gives some examples of work completed and we hope you can see something here of interest to you in your situation though our team are always willing to explore your particular ideas. If you would like to plan for our team to work alongside you, or for your small group to come here, please contact Jacqui Lea in the first instance.

'We thank you for your interest in our work and look forward to hearing from you'.

Jacqui Lea Tel: **023 80 473680**

Email: **hopeweavers@btinternet.com** Website: **www.hopeweavers.co.uk**

Hopeweavers Team, Tardis, Beacon Road, West End, Southampton, SO30 3BS

Selected examples of creative workshops for teams, groups and individuals

Banner making – using materials gathered by your group - particularly successful alongside intergenerational groups – often using themes from the church year or for specific occasions.

Book creation – discover simple book-making ideas and as part of story-telling projects and work on life stories using a variety of techniques and materials

Canvas panels – the creation of artwork in response to specific themes - on large scale with groups working cooperatively or with individuals using a variety of paint, collage, weaving and sewing

Carnival prop making and banner making– for example on an outer city Southampton estate to enable young people to be part of local celebrations, protest/statement banners

Clay modelling – using clay made from recycled china clay various projects focused on the interests of participants – eg. puppet heads, small sculptures, candle holders, creative responses to God

Collage projects – large scale using materials and techniques including painting, work with paper and text, and projects addressing specific themes

Creative journaling - collage, text, stories, your journey with God represented in a unique form

Interior design and makeover – in youth clubs, schools, community centres – various projects with different groups over many years with variable budgets and outcomes including a Christian youth café in Southampton, private homes and sanctuary spaces.

Jewellery design and making –using materials including reclaimed silver, wood, beads, found items and recycled fashion show creations

Lino-cuts and basic printing techniques - explore simple imagery and create your own distinctive designs for books, greeting cards, and learn basic printing skills

Mural Painting – in various settings with groups of young people and mixed aged groups in community settings and private homes

Net-making - a newly evolving craft at hopeweavers using reclaimed materials where ever possible - for gardens, decorative wall hangings, for bags and lots of other uses!

Painting - discover a little of watercolours, acrylics and oils - led by experienced artist/tutors who work in these media most days, themes to suit your setting and requirements

Printing - with found objects, small presses, incorporating a variety of techniques and media

Prayer painting - discover more of God as you journey through your experience of the presence of God within everyday life, create a focus for your prayer room/sanctuary space.

Prayer balls - create a Hopeweaver ball incorporating your own fabrics and text using your own creative writing, as a focus for prayer, for some a reminder of God's presence with us always.

Photography – using digital cameras and also alongside a professional photographer to record/create projects and discover more of the world around us

Reclaimed clothing - never again need to rush out and buy from new! Using hand sewing machines and simple techniques, make some trousers and a top in a day from reclaimed materials, or adapt and restyle existing items from your wardrobe. Learn basic mending - recycle, reuse, reclaim.

Rug-making and memory cloths - using items from your wardrobe, discarded fabrics and those with special memories attached, for all ages, longer term projects for individuals and groups

Sculpture – explore the world in 3D through the use of recycled materials, found items, small clay work, wood and willow, papier mache, make a holding cross, sand 'painting', newspaper rolls, we have used these techniques particularly to encourage team building and cooperative ventures

Hopeweaver weaving – using recycled fabrics and wood veneers amongst other materials, for example as part of story-telling projects. With staff teams to focus attention on team building concerns and as part of Quiet Days and individual faith journeys.

updated - **Spring 2011**