

# Faith as ART PARABLES

Exhibition Catalogue

April 2024



St. James' Green Methodist Church

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## About the Faith as Art Workshops

Traditionally, the Methodist Church has used words and hymns to tell the Christian story. Images can sometimes be more powerful and memorable, making them an accessible medium that can inspire many different interpretations of the same image. We all know the saying, “A picture paints a thousand words.” These workshops are about inspiring faith through art.

Early Christian churches used images to portray the Christian message, as many contemporary artists do today. To date, the Faith as Art workshops have covered works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, Lent, Creation, Advent, and most recently, the Parables of Jesus. Many of the artists studied reflect our culture of the 20th and 21st centuries and are also from cultures and traditions that differ from ours.

We have reflected on the themes and responded to them not in words but in acrylic, pastels, watercolour, pencil, and collage. All the artists, of whatever ability or training, have been challenged, stretched, and taken risks to try new media, styles, and concepts. As a group, we have learned techniques from one another and rejoiced in the joy of being able to capture in paint what was in our minds. Everyone has enjoyed the creative space and time to engage with God through art.

*Simon and Denise Williamson*

# Workshop 1 – LOST

The first set of artworks is based on Jesus's parables of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10), Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:10-14), and Lost Son (Luke 15:11-32). Each work is a creative response by the individual artists, using many different techniques and mediums.



## The Lost Coin

*Simon Williamson – © 2024*

This modern interpretation of the parable of the lost coin (Luke 15:8-10) shows the moment the silver coin has been found and is being retrieved from under some unspecified piece of furniture. The traditional lamp has been replaced by a modern torch or flashlight.



## Untitled

*Jeff Edwards – © 2024*



## Lost Sheep

Jo Everington - © 2024



## Lost Sheep

Denise Williamson - © 2024



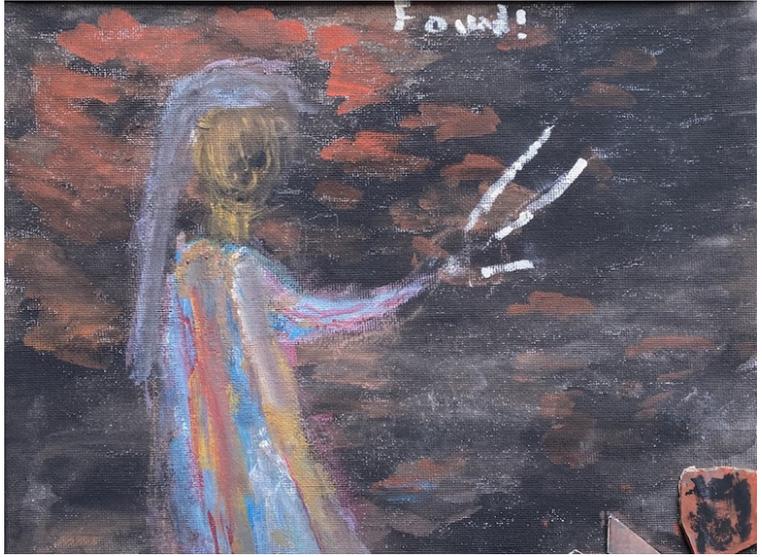
## **The Lost Sheep**

*Shelagh Smith - © 2024*



## **Lost and Found!**

*Kathryn Walker - © 2024*



**Untitled**

Ruth Peaker- © 2024

## **Baggage Reclaim**

Andy Dalby - © 2024



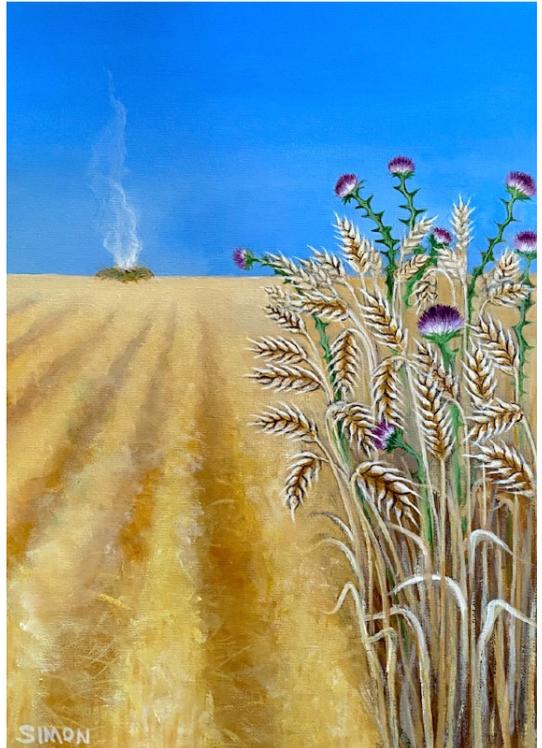
## Workshop 2 – **GROWING**

The second set of artworks is based on Jesus's parables of the The Sower (Matthew 13:1–23), The Weeds Among the Wheat (Matthew 13:24–30), and The Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31–32). Each work is a creative response by the individual artists, using many different techniques and mediums.

### **The Weeds Among the Wheat**

*Simon Williamson – © 2024*

Based on the parable of the weeds (Matthew 13:24–30), in this painting, the weeds are shown as thistles among the wheat. Most of the field has already been harvested, the weeds are being burned, and the wheat is safely in the barn.

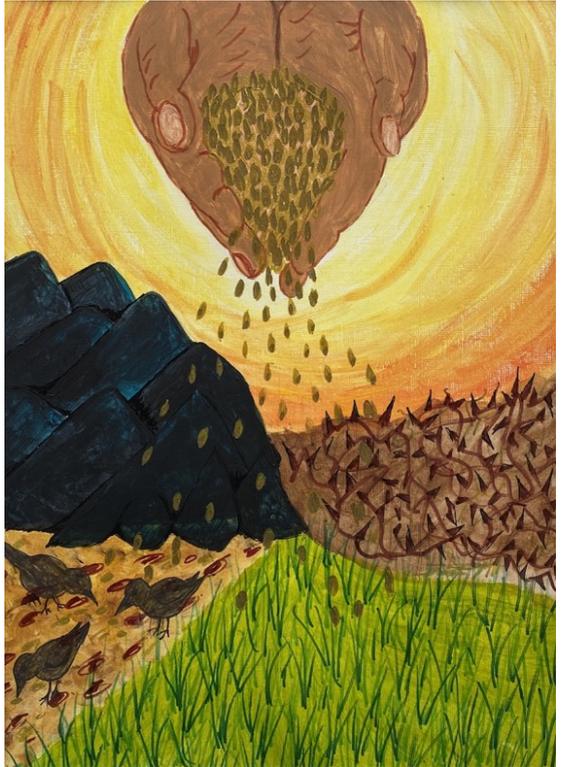


### **The Sower**

*Denise Williamson – © 2024*

## The Sower

Jo Everington - © 2024



## Untitled

Ruth Peaker - © 2024



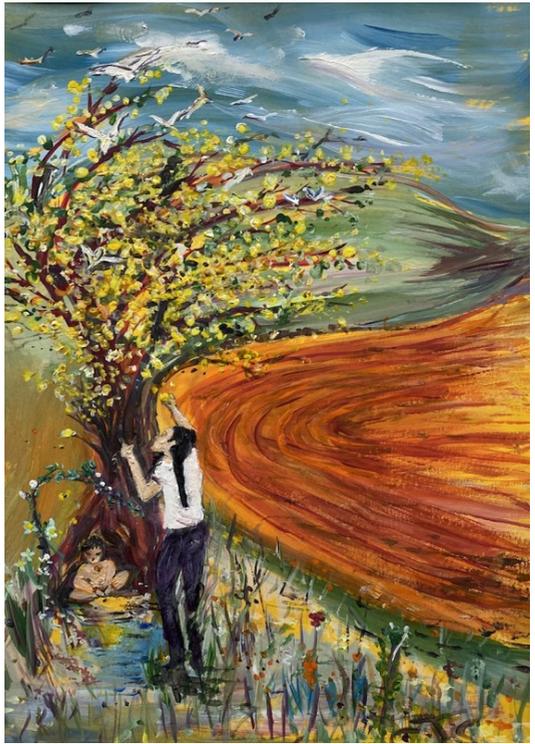
## Untitled

Ruth Peaker - © 2024



# The Mustard Seed

Shelagh Smith – © 2024



# The Sower

Kathryn Walker – © 2024



## Untitled

Andy Dalby - © 2024



## Untitled

Jeff Edwards - © 2024

## Workshop 3 – TREASURE

The third set of artworks is based on Jesus's parables of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44), and Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 45–46). Each work is a creative response by the individual artists, using many different techniques and mediums.



### Buried Treasure

*Simon Williamson – © 2024*

This painting is based on the Parable of Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44), but once again set in modern times. The hand reaches for the unseen treasure, “the kingdom of heaven.”

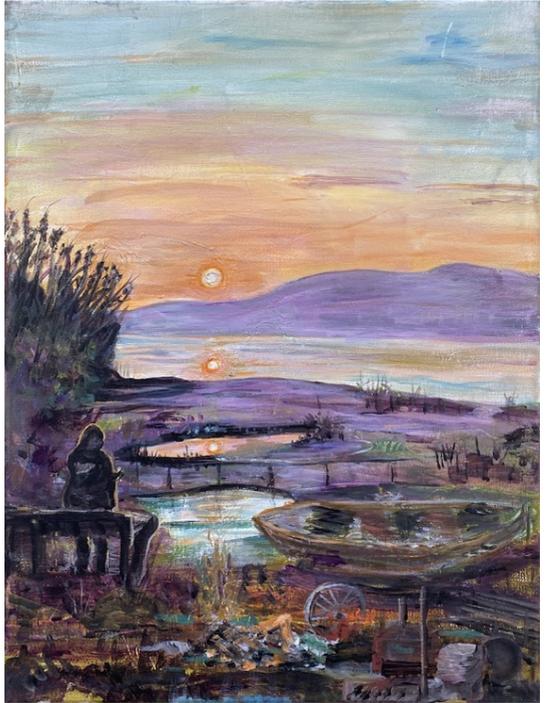
### Untitled

*Peter West – © 2024*



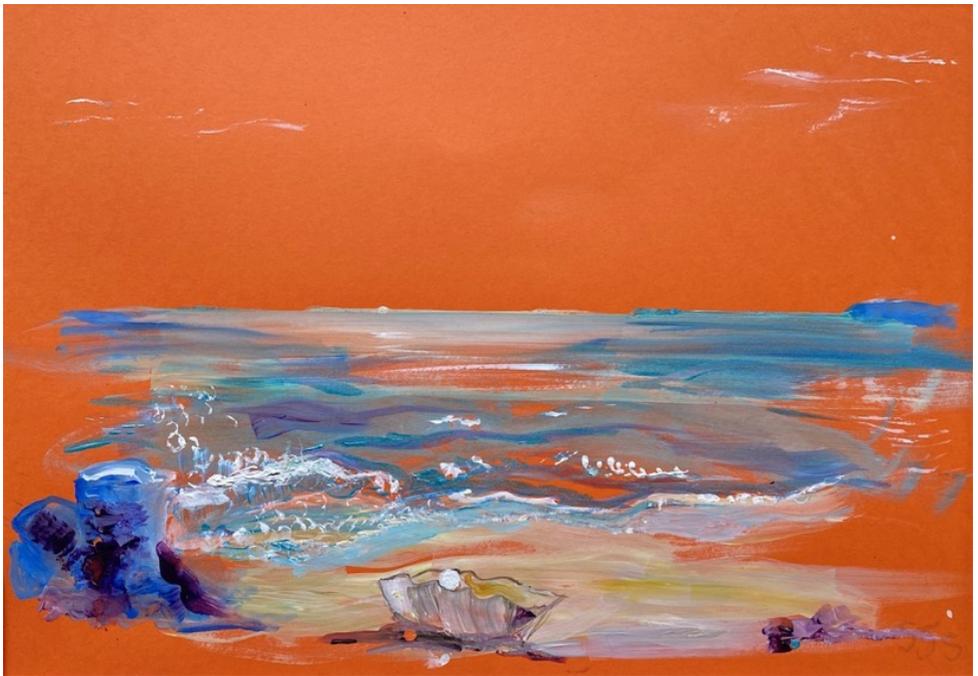
# The Pearl of Great Value

Shelagh Smith - © 2024



# The Pearl of Great Value (I can see clearly now the rain has gone).

Shelagh Smith - © 2024





**Untitled**

*Jeff Edwards- © 2024*



**Treasure**

*Kathryn Walker - © 2024*



## The Hidden Treasure

Shelagh Smith - © 2024

## Untitled

Andy Dalby - © 2024



## Workshop 4 – BUILDING

The forth and last set of artworks is based on Jesus’s parables of The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24–27), and the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13–21) Each work is a creative response by the individual artists, using many different techniques and mediums.

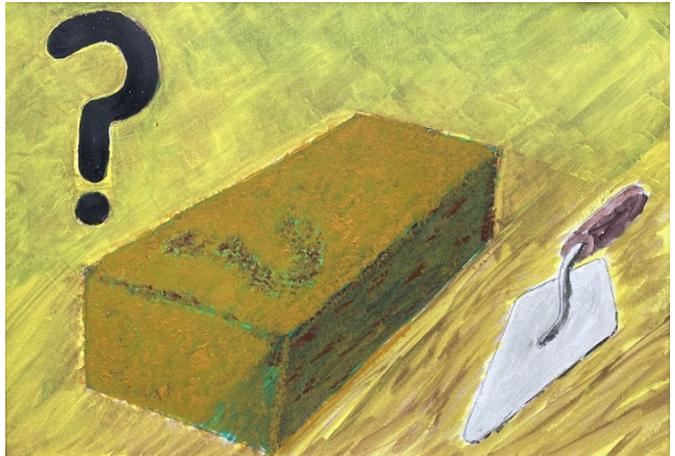


### A House Built on the Sand

*Simon Williamson – © 2024*

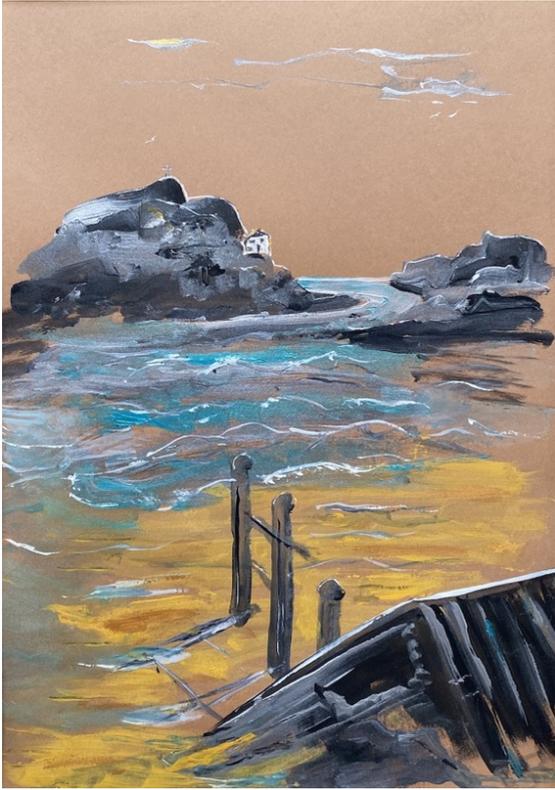
“A House Built on the Sand” is a modern interpretation of the Wise and Foolish Builders Parable (Matthew 7:24–27). The painting consists of a typical late Victorian seaside villa that has survived the storm but is now being destroyed by the tidal surge.

Perhaps we are the foolish builders; we build on flood plains and cause global warming, which in turn speeds up coastal erosion with the loss of many clifftop homes. Especially on the east and south coasts of Britain.



### Untitled

*Andy Dalby – © 2024*



## The Houses on Rock and Sand

*Shelagh Smith - © 2024*

## Houses Built on Rock and Sand

*Denise Williamson - © 2024*





## The Builders

Jo Everington – © 2024



## Untitled

Jeff Edwards – © 2024

# Building

Kathryn Walker - © 2024



# Untitled

Jo Lindley - © 2024



# Untitled

Andy Lindley - © 2024





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