

‘Reading between the lines’

Anne Grebby’s 15 Lenten paintings will be installed in Saint Stephen’s for Lent 2024.

The series began in 2021, with an exhibition in All Saints Church, Brighton, shown for Passiontide 2022 in Canterbury Cathedral Crypt and now, (with the addition of three new paintings), will be installed in Saint Stephen’s for Lent 2024.

As with the traditional Stations of the Cross, each work is intended to help us to engage with Jesus’ final days on earth and to try see through his eyes, speculating on his thoughts as he journeys from the Last Supper to his ascension. The paintings are intended to immerse the eye in the visible and open us to an awareness of the invisible...the infinite mystery of God.

As this series of works developed, I became increasingly aware of the underlying emotive states which Jesus’ followers’ and persecutors’ words and actions reveal. I was looking for the story behind the story, a glimpse of what was going on beneath the surface.

Finally installed here in Saint Stephen’s Church, the resulting works invite you to cross the boundary of each picture frame and accompany Jesus as he approaches his death, resurrection and ascension.

The paintings create an open space for thinking, in which we can all become participating viewers, approaching the moments which mark Jesus’ last hours without preconceived ideas, each of us experiencing the narratives uniquely and intimately as we find ourselves ‘reading between the lines.’