

## **The use of glass and art to enhance our buildings and the impact colour has on our worship and prayer life.**

Looking particularly at the medium of Stained Glass, I spent time thinking about the use of this medium across the centuries, its use for telling the stories of our faith and its people through the ages

Using the book, *Praying in Colour* and the opportunities to engage with colour in places of worship, I allowed colours to take on a deeper significance and worked with them in sketches, journalling and writing prayers. I took on an understanding of how colour and the way it challenges our emotions, changes the way I prayed.

On a number of occasions, I was able to be free within the setting and allow the colours to be so absorbed that they replaced words.

My Sabbatical benefited me in the following way:

Firstly it gave me an opportunity to switch off for a while and to develop a skill that I just haven't had time to work on. I enjoyed the engagement with others on the Stained Glass Course and we learnt new skills then came home and put them in to practice as I created a couple of Stained Glass panels.

The 5 R's retreat at Sheldon at the end of my Sabbatical was an unexpected delight. There was an Artist in Residence with whom I was able to talk to about experiences during the weeks running up to the retreat. She helped me develop a pattern for my main panel, drawing particularly upon the work and colours of Matisse I saw in the Chapel in Venice.

Sue Fender

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