

BARN OWL Issue 9 (March 2021)

Welcome to our bumper Spring edition!

Art Café: A place to meet up on Wednesday mornings

The Café takes place on Zoom, starting at 10.30am for around an hour. You're warmly invited to join us in exploring works artists and their work, talking about life, spirituality and all that intrigues and inspires us.

March 4th A look into Giovanni Bellini's *Presentation at the Temple* (c.1460).

March 10th Paintings about the Battle between Carnival and Lent: how our ancestors used food to represent their beliefs and feelings.

March 17th Canadian beauty: come along and find some mid-Lent refreshment in the Group of Seven's evocative landscapes (1920-33).

March 24th Christ's Passion in Stone, as told through five roof bosses in Norwich Cathedral cloister (c. fourteenth century).

March 31st Easter bring and share. Please come along with the images or objects that reflect your thoughts and feelings about this time of year.

Please phone me on 01508 538014 or e-mail NickGarr39@aol.com for more information and Zoom link.

More News from the Barn

Since our last *Barn Owl*, the 'roadmap' out of lockdown restrictions has been laid out. As we follow its progress, we're looking forward to welcoming you into the Barn in person. We will keep you informed about the Barn's 'roadmap' as circumstances allow, hopefully soon.

Bramerton Group Lent Course

This year, we're looking at Christ's journey from his Wilderness experience to the Cross over five Thursdays, involving prayer, art and discussion:

March 4th: Transfiguration

March 11th: Entering the Passion: Holy Week

March 18th: It is Finished: Good Friday

Each session will be led by local clergy. Please contact me for further details.

News from Norwich Diocese

40 Words for 40 days

Every day from Ash Wednesday (17 February) until Holy Saturday (3 April) a single word will come under the spotlight. Helped by a wide range of images, Susanna Gunner (Diocesan Adviser for Spirituality and Discipleship) will very briefly explore each word, offering one or two ideas for us to mull over each day. A strong seam of hope will weave its way throughout the whole. It's free to sign up to these daily e-mails using this link

<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/resource/40-words-for-40-days/>

News from Elsewhere

A Centenary of Caring: digital exhibition

This article talks about the digital exhibition reflecting the impact on health and community social carers of the COVID-19 pandemic. This joint project between University of East Anglia's School of Health Sciences and Norwich University of the Arts and Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership runs online until March 12th. Based on discussions between students and healthcare workers, works of art were created, ranging from video and photography, to painting, poetry and textiles.

Emma Wakelin, Head of Workforce Transformation for the Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership, said: "The opportunity to collaborate with both our health care professionals and local art students to share experiences and gain insights into the impact of the pandemic has been incredible. I have personally been humbled by the honesty, integrity and passion of experience shown through the finished pieces of art. Taking the time to visit a virtual gallery allowed me some time for personal reflection and again be thankful for the amazing NHS, Social Care, and wider communities we have in Norfolk and Waveney."

<https://www.uea.ac.uk/news/-/article/a-centenary-of-caring-digital-exhibition-to-explore-the-impact-of-the-pandemic-on-mental-health>

The exhibition itself can be found here

<https://artspaces.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibition/4400380/a-centenary-of-caring>

Great Art Exhibition

Why not take part in the nationwide Great Art Exhibition? Launched by FirstSite gallery in Colchester, **it aims to encourage** people to explore their creative side at home, from first-timers to professional artists. If the last time you painted was at school, it doesn't matter - you can display your art in your front garden, from a balcony or on your front door to help create one Great Big Art Exhibition!

Leading artists are backing the exhibition with fortnightly themes to inspire everyone taking part - the first is 'Animals' chosen by iconic sculptor Antony Gormley. Anish Kapoor, Jeremy Deller, Ai Weiwei and Ryan Gander are among the other artists and creatives involved. Or why not take a look at the paintings and artworks selected by some of the leading museums in the country, including the Tate, the British Museum and the V&A to see what inspires you.

Follow this link to find out more and download a free activity pack

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/news-and-announcements/great-big-art-exhibition>

Mission and the Arts: reflections from practitioners

The latest *Anvil* journal from the Church Mission Society is written by artists and theologians exploring ways in which art embrace art can help us to engage with the world, ourselves and mission. There's too much here to describe briefly, so why not have a look for yourself...

https://churchmissionsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Anvil-Volume-37_Issue-1-FINAL.pdf

News from Artlyst

Great Artworks explained in fifteen minutes

Is a new series of videos by art historian James Payne, beginning with Caravaggio's *Taking of Christ*. Viewing these involves becoming a subscriber

<https://www.artlyst.com/features/great-artworks-explained-new-video-series-james-payne/>

Black Pentecostalism and Art

Revd Jonathan Evens reviews a new book that explores the artistic outworkings of Black Pentecostal spirituality.

<https://www.artlyst.com/features/blackpentecostal-breath-spirit-led-movement-jumps-from-music-to-visual-art-revd-jonathan-evens/>

Tracey Emin and Edvard Munch: the Loneliness of the Soul

Susan Gray reviews a Royal Academy exhibition featuring selected works by Emin and Munch.

https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2021/12-february/books-arts/visual-arts/art-review-tracey-emin-edvard-munch-the-loneliness-of-the-soul?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2oj_WPt5jDoNPRkbOaWjIG8qKN4zXf8BuHesZoR_yu-Qhzi4a6Xq7GWM#Echobox=1613474543

Come and paint at Launde Abbey, 12th July, 4:00 pm to 15th July, 4:00 pm

An invitation to join a painting retreat led by Revd Peter Varney.

An opportunity for artists of any level to be with others and create their own paintings, enjoying the Abbey, its gardens and surrounding parkland. There will be plenty of space on offer in the large conference room with individual tables. Please bring all the materials you need. Peter Varney will facilitate the three days encouraging feedback from others. You can also sketch around the Abbey buildings and gardens, the walled garden and surrounding parkland, follow some of the guided walks from Launde abbey, or visit nearby villages.

As always participants are welcome to join the Launde community for daily worship in the Chapel. As part of this retreat, there will be an optional Quaker meeting each day for the group of artists. After supper there will be time to share ideas and videos which introduce the work of renaissance painters. Books by other artists will be available; everyone is invited to bring what inspires them to share with others.

Peter Varney is a retired Anglican priest and Quaker. He followed an access course in art and design at Norwich City College; he has been painting independently for some 20 years, using a range of media. Some

of his paintings can be found on www.painters-online.co.uk/artists/peter2. You are welcome to email him [varney@waitrose.com] or phone him [01603 760838] for further information.

Cost: £370; early bird price £350 if booked before 15 May 2021.

Bookings: some places are currently reserved for Norfolk friends. Do tell Peter if you are interested. He'll send on your details to Launde abbey who will contact with details of how to book. Peter has heard from David Newman, the warden at abbey, that if the retreat cannot take place through Covid they can get a full refund.

Please e-mail or phone me if there are any art and spirituality resources you'd like to suggest for Barn Owl, or if you'd like to support the Barn's vibrant ministry. Many thanks!

With best wishes,

Nick Garrard

Bishop's Officer for Christian Spirituality through the Creative Arts (Norwich)