

A Caritas Quilt – Encouraging School Children to Sew!

A community project.

Written by Sophie Younger, 2018

Back in 2014 Younger Conservation enthusiastically supported a textile community project that would encourage children to enjoy the art of sewing.

From the drawing board ...



Based on the idea of the Jesse Tree, as described by the Prophet Isaiah, 'A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.'

Each tree is about 1.5m high and they can be hung separately or brought all together on the floor.

The shields are the story boards... designed to carry painted pictures from the Old and New Testaments. They also take the form of very practical pouches that will allow resources to be tucked away to support bringing the scriptures alive to the parish children.



Training session in chain stitch (left: embroidery & right: written & illustrated instructions)

Sophie Younger and Lorna Pirrie (artist) working with members of the Perth Catholic Youth Project - painting up the Jesse 'tree of life'



Whilst the hand sewing was only a small part of the quilt, because the children found painting easier, Sophie hoped it would kindle an interest in textile craft within my wider community, in Perth.



Detail of chain stitch around the Jesse Tree

The removable shields represent stories from all the different Liturgical themes throughout the year such as: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, certain Feast Days and Ordinary Time.

...to completion – after four years!



The project reached the local Diocesis newsletter:

‘...Mrs Younger, always enthusiastic to encourage the next generation to like sewing brought in her team of professionals, to work with the Children’s Liturgy Group, to create the design framework on which the young peoples’ ideas developed. At the start, the work involved children in the parish youth group. Next, it was the turn of pupils from St John’s Academy and Kilgraston School who were working to achieve their Pope Benedict Caritas Award, for service to the Church and finally the wider community, both groups and individuals in the parish were needed, due to the scale of the project...’

YCL continues to work within the community on textiles projects.

Project Context

The project ran from 2014 – 2018.

Thank you to all those involved: Eileen Leslie (idea), Lorna Pirrie (artist), Anne Mitchell (Children’s Liturgy co-ordinator), Christine Lord (sewer), Needle & Thread, Perth (sewing shop), Aleksandra Molon (graphic designer), Perth Catholic Youth Project (3GY), pupils from Kilgraston School & St John’s Academy; Frankie McGuire and Justyna Jablonska (3GY supervisors).

Project managed by Sophie Younger.