

# Guildford Cathedral

## TREE OF LIFE

textile art exhibition

## Children's Activity Sheet



**This sheet provides some interesting questions for children. Just pick and choose a few of them. Adults may enjoy them too !**

*Answers are on the back*

You may also enjoy reading the Guide to **Tree of Life and Open Heaven** (price £4) from the Minster Shop and Welcome Desk.

Also, do visit [www.jacqui-textile.com](http://www.jacqui-textile.com) for further information about this and other exhibitions by textile artist Jacqui Parkinson.

**Buying the guides helps towards the costs of touring, so thank you! You can also find out how to support this and the next spectacular project touring UK cathedrals.**

### INTRODUCTION –

### THREE VERY OLD STORIES!

These panels are very, very new, and you are one of the first people to see them. They retell stories in the bible that, even though they are very old, many people also think they're really important and have a lot to tell us today.

### I SPY

**Especially for younger visitors ...**

**What can you spot in panel 1?**

**Look out for some of these:**

**I spy something that looks like ...**

**an eagle – tortoise - horse**

**snake – lamb – angel - sword**

**dinosaur – ostrich - elephant**

### Stitching!

Q1 The three panels here are the work of a single artist - Jacqui Parkinson. Guess how long they all took to complete:

- 3 months?  6 months?  One year?  
 18 months?  2 years?

Q2 Jacqui uses a special sewing machine that lets you stitch curves and circles as well as straight lines. And it counts the stitches. **Guess how many stitches the sewing machine made for these three panels.** 12,000 stitches? 120,000? 1,200,000?

These three panels are all about the beginning and end of the bible, with an important in-between bit. The Bible is made up of many books by many writers. The first stories are in Genesis (panel one) and the last in Revelation (panel 3).

**Q3 Guess how many books there are in the bible.**  11?  22?  44?  66?  88?

### Panel 1 – Garden of Eden

Genesis is the name of the first book in the bible. Genesis means “beginning”. Most people think the Genesis story is a way of explaining things rather than being exactly what happened.

It begins with the story of how God created the world. And how he created plants and animals. And then a man and a woman, Adam and Eve. And he made wonderful place called the Garden of Eden. You'd love it – lots of tame animals, beautiful plants, and lots of good things to eat. Everything was lovely!

Unfortunately Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and went and spoilt things.

This panel is a picture of what the artist thought it might have been like.

## Take a look at the Garden of Eden ..

Which are your favourite animals?

**Q4 Surprises:** Can you see some surprising ones which the artist included for fun?

Can you see the two big trees in garden? One is called the Tree of Life, the other the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told Adam and Eve they could have anything in the Garden, except fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. Can you see what its fruit looks like? And can you see who's pecking at its seeds?

**Q5** There are two figures on either side. Do you think they are friendly or scary?

**Q6** Do you think the angels are guarding the garden to keep people out or welcome them in?

**Can you see Adam and Eve?** What do you think they are thinking? Are they happy or sad?

**Q7** In the story, one creature was supposed to have persuaded Adam and Eve to disobey God. Can you see what the creature is?

**Can you see the river ?** It's flowing out of the Garden in four directions, and it's the river of life.

## Panel 2 Crucifixion

You probably have learnt that Jesus Christ was crucified - killed, dying a horrible death on a cross.

It's very hard to understand, but Christians believe he didn't try to escape but actually chose this to happen, overturning a load of bad things that people have done over hundreds of years.

. In dying this way, he gave his life for everyone so that they may live well and forever.

The panel shows Jesus on the cross but also on the tree of life.

**Can you see the nails in his hands and feet?** He was nailed to a cross.

**Can you see what's coming out of his side?**

In the bible, it describes how Jesus was stabbed in the side by a soldier's spear. Normally you'd expect a lot of blood, but a witness at the time said it was blood and water.

**Q8** Can you see what the artist has made of the wound? Can you guess why?

## Panel 3 New Creation

This is a picture of the last scene in Revelation, the last book in the bible. A man called John had a series of amazing visions in a kind of dream. He was told lots of important things, which he wrote down for everyone to read. He had a vision of a great city of heaven. The artist has given us her version of what she thinks it might look like.

**What can you see?** Can you spot, for example, a tree, fruit, little houses, a river, city walls? What is in the middle of the city?

**Q9** Can you see the angels at the doorways? When artist Jacqui was planning them, guess what she thought of?

**Q10** Do you think the angels are guarding the city to keep people out or welcome them in?

**Q11** How many angels are there?

Who do you think will live in this new city with its beautiful garden? Where would you like to live? Pick a little house! **You might like to draw your idea of your home in heaven, when you get home ...**

### ANSWERS!

Q1 Answer – 18 months

Q2 Answer – 1,200,000 stitches!

Q3 Answer – 66 books

Q4 look out for a dinosaur and a unicorn, and a lion lying down with a lamb

Q5 Rather scary: the two angels stand with a fiery sword, guarding the Garden.

Q6 They angels were stopping humankind from returning)

Q7 It's a serpent, or snake

Q8 The artist has shown the wound in Jesus' side as a source of the river of life, which flows through the whole of the bible.

Q9 Jacqui was thinking of fireworks, especially catherine wheels!)

Q10 The angels are keen to welcome people in!

Q11 It depends how carefully you look! There are whole angels visible, and bits of angels - you'll see just of some of their wings hidden behind doorways!