

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

21st June 2026



'Threads though the Bible' Exhibition
at Chester Cathedral
by Sallie Bancroft

Martin & I visited the **"Threads though the Bible"** exhibition at Chester Cathedral. What amazing pieces of textile art created by **Jacqui Parkinson** over the space of ten years – twenty-five million stitches! The smallest is single bed-sheet sized, most are double. The colours and details are wonderful.



There are **44 panels in total**, displayed in three sections;

- Threads through Creation
- Threads through the Cross
- Threads through Revelation

I started wondering about "threads".

What does it mean?

What threads are in our lives?
How is God's thread (depicted as a 3-strand spiral in the Creation panels) woven through my life?

This reminds me of Psalm 139 which we often read at Night Prayer,

"¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made".

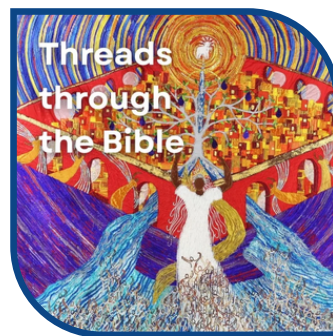


We most commonly think of a thread as a long, thin strand of cotton, wool or other fibre used in sewing and weaving. Nowadays, with mobile phones, a thread is linked messages. Perhaps, if you're more mechanically minded, it's the thread on screws, nut and bolts that comes to mind. "Threads" is also a slang term for clothes. In literature it can be the theme, weaving through the story; or used to describe a river or road threading it's way through the countryside. We can thread a needle, or thread things together, such as beads. We thread our way through a crowd or trees; navigating and weaving, not in a straight line. A thread can guide or keep those who are together.

What makes us who we are is our chromosomes; long threads of DNA, the genes that give us our physical characteristics, they are passed on through the generations. DNA threads are arranged as double spirals. Every cell in our bodies contains our own unique DNA – our own specific thread.



My own, and your own, thread is special. I am a biological product of my parents, and they of theirs ... but that creative bit of twisting together, their threads to create mine, **makes me me**.



We also have **threads in our lives which weave together to form us**, our characters and behaviours which are nurture rather than nature. Where and how we live, our home and daily lifestyle, the people around us, the stresses and strains of life work together in the tapestry of our lives and are visible in how we live.



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'Threads through the Bible' Exhibition

.....continued

Importantly, **is God's thread visible in our lives?** We are all unique 'threads' yet intended to work together as the Body of Christ. The thread that runs through the Bible, from Creation to Revelation, continues through us. We each have our own role to fulfil **[to direct people to God and His love for everyone]**, not on our own but within the supporting weave of those around us.



In Ecclesiastes 4 we read of how hard it is for one person to stand against oppression and work alone. In the words of Ecclesiastes:

¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken. (Eccl.4:12)

And St Paul, in Ephesians 4, pursues the importance of unity, as those individual threads working together as the Body of Christ.

¹⁵ ... we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

By being connected with God and each other we become the Body of Christ - the rich, living tapestry of woven threads, revealing God's love to the world.



Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken
Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together
Bind us together in Love

There is only one God,
There is only one King
There is only one Body,
That is why we sing.
Bind us together, Lord ...

Fit for the glory of God,
Purchased by His precious Blood
Born with the right to be free
Jesus the victory has won.
Bind us together, Lord ...

We are the family of God
We are the promise divine
We are God's chosen desire
We are the glorious new wine.
Bind us together, Lord ...



Service of Prayer for Healing & Wholeness

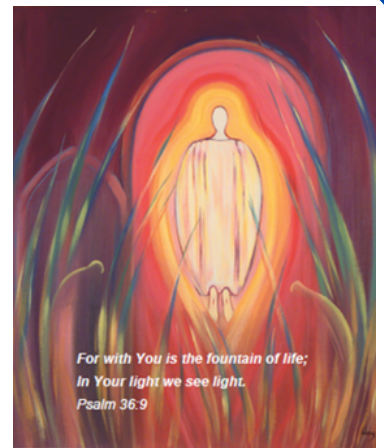
The next of our quarterly services is later on this month, **Friday 26th June.**

Starting at 11am, the service lasts about 30 minutes.

With words, music and silence, here is an opportunity to bring

the needs of yourself or your loved ones before God.

There will also be the chance to be prayed for with the laying on of hands (*entirely optional*)



*For with You is the fountain of life;
In Your light we see light.
Psalm 36.9*



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