

Story of the Cromer Parish Church Prayer Banner

Early days

In the Spring of 2025 the Prayer Initiative Team approached Crafts2share asking if we might be interested in making a new prayer banner. A small group of craft group members known as 'The Quilting Group' had already formed so this was the team that would be working on the project.

We were given two criteria; the first was that the banner must be clearly seen when people entered the church to draw people forward to the prayer chapel and the second criteria was that it needed to convey the working of the Holy Spirit in bringing about revival in the church.

With these criteria in mind and after prayer, three members did drawings of what the banner might look like. Interestingly all three people used a similar colour palette and all three used the same symbols of flames, a cross and a dove. Importantly though all three members who had done a drawing felt that their drawing didn't quite capture the energy and life and vibrancy that was needed in the completed prayer banner and so we took a different approach.



Instead of drawing pictures we gathered together a collection of fabric, threads, ribbons, beads, sequins in the colour palette identified in the previous drawings and put everything into a pile and we agreed that this was our plan! We learned that we had to trust God that by his Holy Spirit working in us and through us, the banner would develop over time and the full banner would be revealed upon completion. So we offered the scrappy bits on the table coupled with an open mind and heart and left the rest to God.

Work begins!

We had a group of about ten people who worked on the prayer banner, some with quilting experience and some without. We met each week in someone's home, like people have traditionally done over the centuries when working on shared needlework projects, and we gained strong friendships with each other over the months as we sewed and talked and prayed.

The banner was to be all hand stitched, with the exception of a little machine sewing to strengthen the top and bottom sleeve for the dowelling.

We would use all recycled fabric and threads and ribbons as far as we were able to and buy as little as we needed to. We wanted to give all these bits new life. So we sourced things in charity shops, recycling pillowcases, dresses, T shirts, blouses, artificial flowers, fancy wool, offcuts of netting and found half packets of sequins and beads and the like in long forgotten places.





The background needed to be strong and stable enough to withstand a myriad of potentially bulky items being sewn on to it. Several weeks were spent on this aspect of the banner and we were all itching to get going on the vivid colours and lift ourselves out of the blues!

The flames of the Holy Spirit were a free for all. People used what they wanted, created how they wanted, stitched any which way they wanted and stuffed or not as they pleased. The image on the banner was slowly being revealed. Not only that but a wider group of people were being drawn into it. Some stopped by to donate things we might use, some came to pray over the banner, others offered sug-



gestions and gave encouragement - all very much appreciated.

And then came the moment to add the dove. Should it be to the left, or to the right of the cross? Should the dove be flying in or flying away? And then one morning someone was standing above the banner with the dove in their hand and unintentionally dropped it on the banner, where it landed right in the middle of the cross! God had seemingly chosen where he wanted the dove to be placed. That was the final item to be finished on the front before we added the borders and the backing and the banner was completed.



Being asked to create the prayer banner was a real privilege and we learned so much throughout the process, especially how important it is to rely on the Holy Spirit and trust in God.

This prayer banner is of God, made by Him, in us and through us.

Crafts2share Quilting Group