

ArtServe Festival 2024

Creating Harmony

Friday 18th – Sunday 20th October

**Kents Hill Park Conference Centre,
Timbold Drive, Milton Keynes MK7 6BZ**

A weekend of fellowship, worship, and creativity, with opportunities to meet up with other Christian creatives, to practise our creative skills and learn new ones, and to share our creative faith journeys together.

Read on for a preview of our
Festival Weekend 2024!

Creating Harmony

'Creating Harmony' may mean different things to different people. Some may think about it musically, others in terms of creating harmony within the environment and protecting our beautiful earth, others about creating harmony in the home, or even within ourselves as we think of self-care and the importance of our mental health.

However you approach this theme, we're confident there will be something for everyone at this year's festival. The programme includes a variety of activities based on the theme to inspire your creative spirituality, and there will be spaces for prayer, fellowship, and creative thought, practice and worship.

Our keynote speaker will be Revd Jenny Pathmarajah, a Methodist Presbyterian who has ministered to churches in Norfolk and on the island of Jersey, before moving to her current post in Cambridge. Jenny is a gifted musician, with an interest in the often uneasy relationship between spiritual and secular music, and how both have their place in our Christian life and worship. These themes will form the basis of her keynote address on Friday evening, and will be carried through into two of our workshop sessions on Saturday morning.



Keynote speaker Jenny Pathmarajah

Revd Caroline Weaver will be our chaplain for the Festival weekend. Former librarian Caroline has ministered in the Methodist Church in Beds, Essex & Herts for over 25 years, including as a prison chaplain, caring for the spiritual welfare of people of all faiths and none. She says: "I enjoy creative worship, prayer, bible study and retreats. God, people, music, words and colour are what sustain, motivate and inspire me, and I enjoy sewing, complicated knitting, and gardening. I am honoured to serve as chaplain at the ArtServe festival this year."

Once again our Festival bookshop will be provided by Julie Ann from The Book Centre, Stoke on Trent. Along with a variety of books, cards, and other creative resources, there will be books on the weekend theme, including titles recommended by our facilitators. Julie Ann is happy to take requests in advance for any other books and resources and to bring them to the Festival for you to collect – simply email her at: enquiries@crfl.co.uk



A New Venue!

We're very much looking forward to our first Festival in a new venue.

Kents Hill Park Conference Centre is centrally situated and easily accessible, less than 15 minutes from the railway station, and only 3 miles from junction 14 of the M1, with plenty of on-site parking. The centre's facilities include a variety of comfortable accommodation, flexible meeting rooms, and communal spaces for fellowship and refreshments, including some pleasant outdoor spaces. There is also within the complex a gym and swimming pool, both of which are free to use for guests of the centre – so don't forget to pack your cozy!



The centre has facilities for people with disabilities, and caters for different dietary requirements (you will be asked about these when booking), and hot and cold drinks are available throughout the day.

You can find out more about the venue and facilities at: <https://www.kentshillpark.com>

Weekend Programme

Friday 18th October

Arriving at Kents Hill Park from 4.00 pm, there will be time to register and settle in your room, and to meet up over a drink with friends old and new, before we gather for dinner.

After dinner, we will meet in our main conference room for welcomes, notices, and our keynote address on the theme, given by the Revd Jenny Pathmarajah. We'll then close our evening in prayer.

Saturday 19th October

The day will begin with optional morning prayer, followed by breakfast. You can then enjoy two of the creative workshops on offer before lunch. Details of confirmed workshops are below.

The ArtServe AGM will take place at 2.00 pm, and we hope that anyone not able to be with us for the whole Festival weekend will be able to join us either in person at the venue, or to watch a live-stream of the AGM on YouTube (the link will be available via the ArtServe Fellowship Facebook page).

After a break for refreshments, you can enjoy a third creative workshop before dinner. We'll then enjoy an entertaining evening together, before concluding the day's activities with prayer.

Sunday 20th October

The day will begin with optional morning prayer and breakfast. We will gather in the conference room to hear presentations from ArtServe members about their own creative ministries and how they are 'creating harmony', and the Festival will finish with a service of worship and celebration.

Creative Workshops

Drama

Through discussion and practical activity, Richard will enable you to consider ways of using drama in a church setting, focusing on how to get the best out of people for Bible drama with limited rehearsal time.

Richard is an author, scriptwriter, director, and performer, and a member of ArtServe.

Facilitator: Richard Adams



Painting on Silk

Learn the basic skills of painting on silk – how to mix and blend colours, and using salt to achieve some interesting effects – before creating your own beautiful silk picture, which you can then frame or make into a greetings card.

Beth is an enthusiastic crafter who enjoys sharing her skills with others.

Facilitator: Beth Burton



Icon Writing

Susan will give an introductory talk on this ancient and beautiful form of worship. You will then learn some basic skills, before having a go at producing your own small sample of an icon.

Susan is an artist with a passion for iconography.

Facilitator: Susan Cooke

The life of Jesus: A South Korean Art Perspective

We know Christ was Middle Eastern and Jewish – and yet Christ is for all people. In this 'look and think' session, Jacqui considers the theme in terms of East-West harmony, as she introduces you to Jesus as portrayed through the eyes of Kim Ki-Chang, a South Korean Roman Catholic Artist.

Jacqui is a member and Trustee of ArtServe.

Facilitator: Jacqui Hicks



Why should the Devil get all the good tunes?

Facilitator: Jenny Pathmarajah

Continuing on from Friday evening's keynote address, Jenny explores modern secular music and the lessons that chart music can teach the church.

CPR to dead and dying hymns

In her second workshop, Jenny will consider how we can breathe life into dull hymns no one can sing and no one likes!

Jenny is an ordained Methodist presbyter based in Cambridge, and is our keynote speaker for the weekend.



Circle Dancing

Facilitator: Gillian Pengelly

Traditional in many communities and cultures, circle dancing uses simple and repetitive steps, gentle and easy to learn, to create a beautiful harmony of music, movement, and meditation. No experience necessary.

Gillian is an experienced teacher of circle dancing, and a member of ArtServe.



Needle-felting

Facilitator: Michelle Pickering

Needle-felting is a relaxing, mindful activity, and the rhythmic 'stabby-stabby' sound of the needle into the felting mat provides a gentle backdrop to the creative process. Michelle will teach the fundamentals, and you will leave having created your own little bee, Christmas bauble, or other small item. No previous experience is necessary.

Michelle is an avid crafter, and a member and Trustee of ArtServe.



Booking information:

The cost for the weekend is £240 for a single en suite room, including all meals, refreshments, and conference expenses. Shared room rates, children's discounts, and day visitor rates are also available.

For full booking information and to book your place, please go to: www.artserve.org.uk

(N.B. Online booking is preferred, but if this is not possible, please email festival@artserve.org.uk and request a form to be sent by post.)

We look forward to seeing you at ArtServe Festival 2024!



Some images from our 2023 Festival, 'For everything there is a season'