

The Power of Quirky: Connection, Creativity and Craft

Revd Abigail Sines

Revd. Abigail Sines began her lively talk by sharing the Sheep Trail which she initiated while working at Christ Church Cathedral. Designed to increase public engagement with the story of Christmas, the trail always ended at the Nativity and during 2020 and 2021, because of Covid, the sheep trail took place outside.

Abigail recommended we ask the question, “How much of this sacred space can we use?” One year, she set up different spaces around the building so that attendees followed dancers through immersive experiences on a reflective and creative pilgrimage.

Another project presented, ‘Birds with Wishes’, was based on postcards and homing pigeons to underpin Refugee week. Communications were exchanged and relationships developed between children and artists in Syria, Lebanon and Dublin. A summer creativity camp involved local children and asylum seekers, so it was multi-faith and multi-cultural. As Abigail said, “While we cannot always pray together, we can still be nice to each other.”

The last project she shared was “Out of the Box”, which showcased a group of creative parishioners and mindful makers who enjoyed craft and knitting. In 2023, the group gave each householder in the parish a knitted egg holder and *Cream Egg* with a card, saying “Happy Easter from the Church”.

In 2024, the group expanded their activities and began the very ambitious Knitted Bible project, which featured scenes from the Bible chosen and designed by the makers themselves. These have proved very popular and have been loaned out to other churches. Conference delegates were able to admire the tableaux of stories, arranged around Christ Church Cathedral for two out of our three-day conference.

Abigail finished her talk by saying that creativity is a well-spring for faith and it is joyful! She then reminded us of these lines of Scripture:

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2, v 8-10).

This address (Speaker 2) was given at the Cathedrals Plus Conference 2026 at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin on 14th January 2026 by Revd Abigail Sines.

Summary produced by Jackie Holderness, Cathedrals Plus