

# *Stations of Lament* by Louise Carr



## **Louise Carr**

*Stations of Lament* began as prayer practice. At the end of the day I would ensure half an hour or so of quilting or stitching, it stilled me into prayer. This moved into a general understanding that I found colour, textile and stitch important in prayer and often these give voice to words I had not found. This series emerged with words of anger and pain at the way the world is and is experienced by some. Lament puts it that this world is not the world God intended it to be. As I explored lament in the Hebrew Bible led by textiles I recognised that this is a prayer form we have marginalised or even lost in our current age. Yet holistic spirituality involves both Lament and Praise.

*Stations of Lament* began during my ministry in Bradford, and was shaped more formally during my sabbatical study in Washington DC. It has deepened and expanded my faith. I have been blessed to be supported in my journey by my church in the West Yorkshire District and in the development of 'Stations of Lament' by Professor Denise Dombrowski Hopkins at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC. The ongoing support of my spiritual director and friends has given confidence and shape to my thinking.

*Stations of Lament* is an opportunity to explore an ancient prayer form; to experience it with all of your senses; and to be able to find places where you can pray. It will open you up to parts of God that you hadn't realised were there.

Lament is the other side of prayer. There's a strong sense in churches that God is someone to be praised but in many ways, in the Christian church, we've lost the lament capacity and we're not so keen to say to God 'it's not working as it should. How should it be?' and to be truthful to God, which the narrative of Lent allows you to be.

*Louise will also lead a pilgrimage around the Stations of Lament with the Monday Fellowship on Monday 11th March at 2pm. This event is free and all are welcome.*

**We'd love to hear your thoughts on this exhibition.**

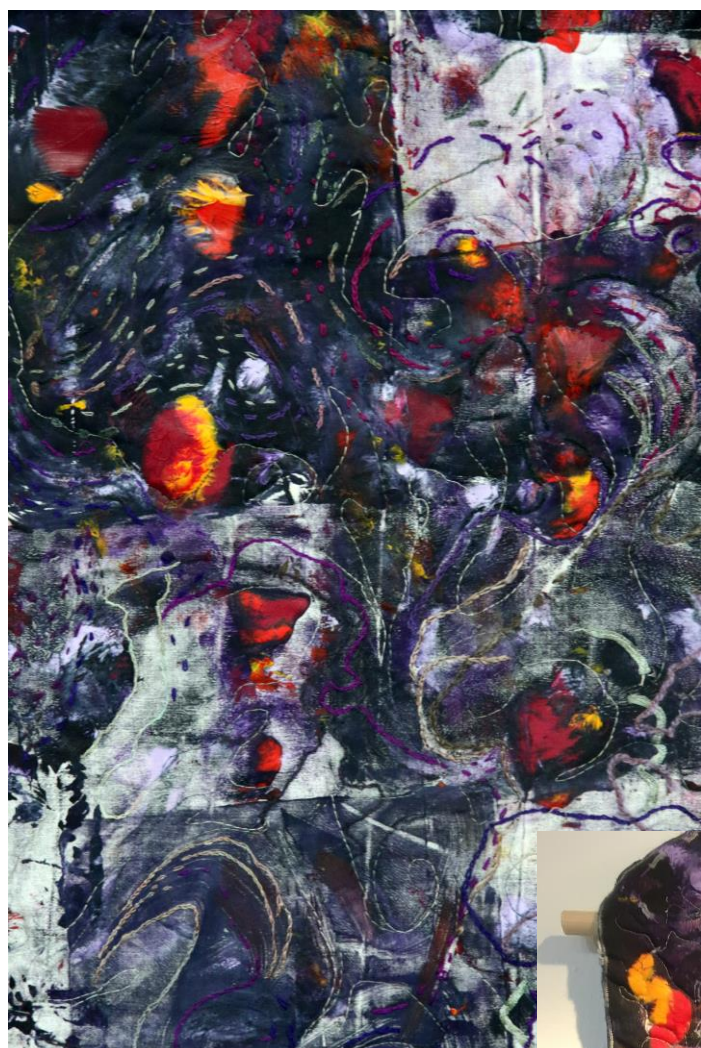


**@BfdCathedral #StationsofLament**

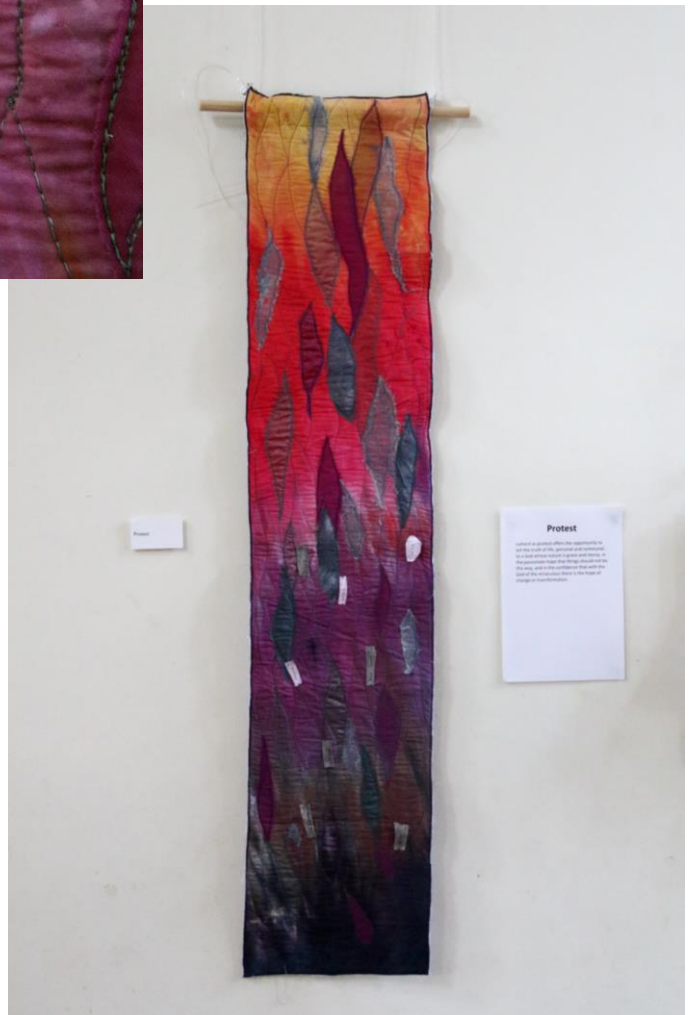
# Weeping



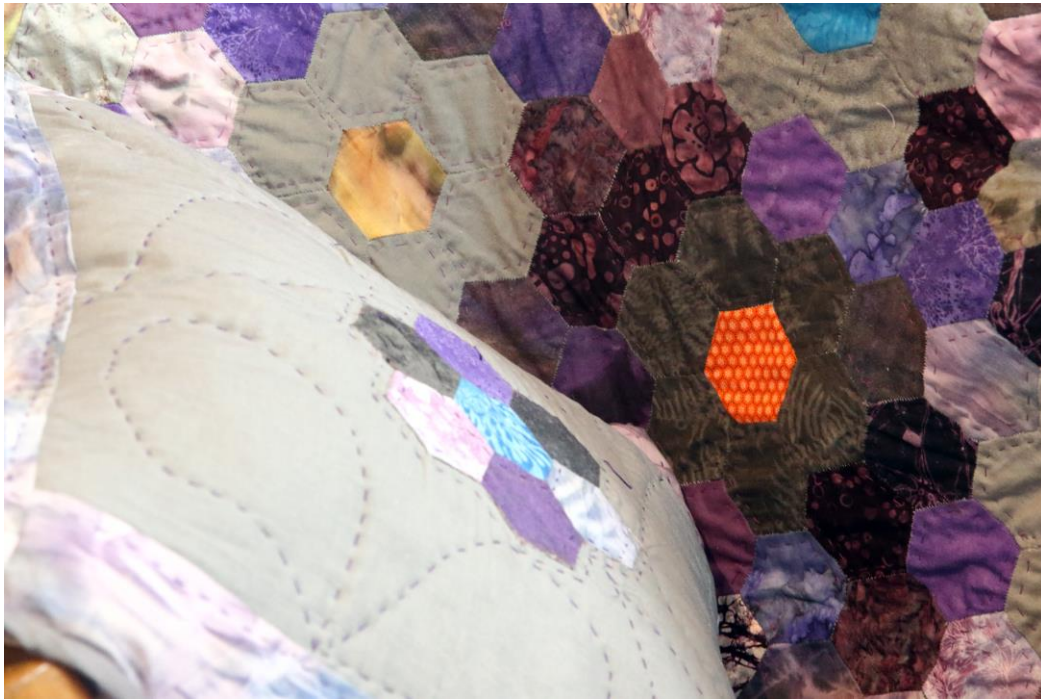
# Chaos and Confusion



# Protest



# Comfort



# Truth Telling



# Desolation



## Desolation

The desolation of Psalm 88 is difficult. It points to a reality some people experience, if we are honest possibly most people experience where, when traumatic events happen it feels like God is absent. It may even feel like God has acted to cause the problem because God has apparently not intervened to protect the person or community. These situations often leave the individual or community silenced, with few words for prayer of God. These could be described as situations. It may be that Psalm 88 can provide words for those who feel silenced in that way.

# Emerging Hope





I thought I was coming just to hook. How wrong I was. Very deep, thought-provoking in order to do the challenges; quite moving yet peaceful at the same time. Sheena Thank you for allowing us to be involved.

Thank you for sharing your work with us. It made me reflect on the different layers of lamentation and realize that it was ok to take some of them with me. "It doesn't matter if the colours merge". Do this again! Every blessing. AMF.

So powerful! - very special help study time at prayer.

Wonderful work, very moving

Very moving and enlightening. Hope. Thank you.

This is the second time I've experienced these stations of lament and I'm struck by how I was drawn to different stations this time and how I am differently effected this time. Thank you.

Very moving and thought provoking. Thank you.

A powerful help to prayer - thank you

Thank you for sharing this work. And thank you for the exercises which helped me to engage with it more deeply.