

Creativity is woven into fabric of faith



Garry Lace, from St Hubert's, Idsworth, argues the case for creativity to be integral to Christianity, not just an optional extra

On the Bible Course I did recently through St Hubert's Church in Idsworth, I learned that two words appear more than once in the opening chapters of Genesis: *Be fruitful*.

For me, creativity feels woven into the fabric of the creation story itself. The Bible does not begin with instruction but with making, forming and shaping. So, if the story of God begins with creation, it quietly raises a question for all of us.

We often associate fruitfulness with growth or productivity. But perhaps fruitfulness is about what we bring into the world that helps others feel more alive.

Music can do that. Stories can do that. Art can do that.

Creativity has a remarkable ability to create ripples. Music written centuries ago can still comfort someone today. A story told honestly can make a person feel understood.

Faith and creativity have long been intertwined. Some of the most beautiful music, art and architecture emerged from communities trying to express something about God, where words alone did not suffice.

And yet, in everyday church life, creativity can sometimes feel like

an optional extra rather than something central to spiritual experience.

Perhaps that is because creativity is unpredictable. It stirs emotion. It asks questions without always providing neat answers. It requires vulnerability, and vulnerability is rarely comfortable.

Creativity is one way of offering people space to explore faith

The artist and writer Makoto Fujimura speaks of 'culture care': the idea that faith communities are called not only to respond to the world, but to add beauty to it. To contribute something life-giving. To cultivate spaces where meaning, hope and connection can be encountered.

It is easy to move through life consuming information, entertainment and opinion without creating anything ourselves.

But creating requires attention. It asks us to slow down, to notice what is happening within and around us. When people create together, something shifts. People feel seen in ways that conversation alone does not always allow.

Perhaps creativity is one way of offering people space to explore faith. Not as a replacement for worship, teaching or tradition, but as another way in. A way to experience before defining. To encounter before explaining.

Choirs, art, writing groups: these become places where people bring their doubts, imagination and longing, without needing certainty. Creativity allows faith to be discovered through participation rather than persuasion.

In a world where so many are quietly searching for connection and purpose, creativity may be one of the most welcoming ways to encounter the gospel: not only as something to understand intellectually, but as something to experience through beauty and shared expression.

As someone at the beginning of my own journey of faith, I find myself returning to 'be fruitful' as evidence of what grows around us because we dared to create.

Write something that touches a heart. Sing alongside others. Gather people around a table. Help someone tell a story never heard before. None of these will change the whole world. But they might change someone's world. And that is fruitful enough.