

DECORATIVE WALL HANGINGS

Since 2008, the church sanctuary has featured several decorative hangings produced by Georgina Gray, a RUC member, as part of a Riverside Churches project. At the semi-annual RUC/COR combined service on April 19th, 2009, the original quilts were blessed and officially commissioned as part of the church sanctuary. Others were blessed at combined services shortly after they were hung.



Georgina Gray



The altar is flanked by banners entitled “*In the Beginning*” which represent earth, water, vegetation, sky and the radiance from the Cross. Georgina created these large fabric art panels using over 100 different batiks, 570 shapes per panel, by modifying the “Tumbling Glass” quilt pattern designed by Martha L. Brown.



On the east side of the sanctuary (organ side), the first banner (LHS) features Celtic knots that date back to the Book of Kells (circa 800 AD or earlier). The first knot (top) features an explosion of colour, as in fireworks, hence “Celebrate”. The middle two knots encircle the Greek letters Chi (X) and Rho () – the first two letters of Christ, and Alpha (A) and Omega (), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (beginning to the end of time). The bottom knot represents

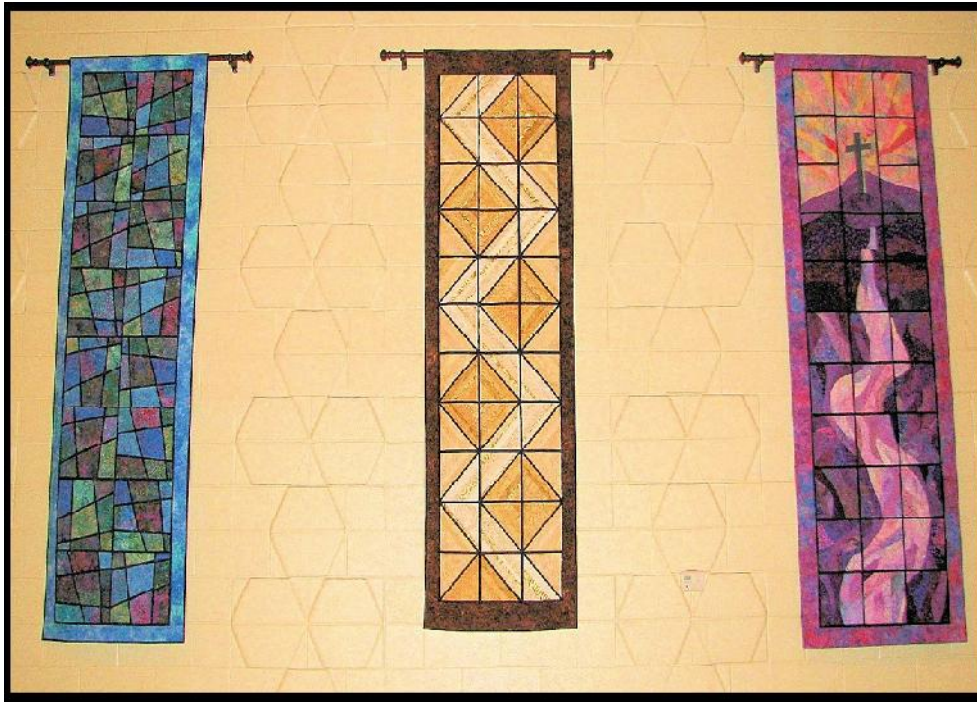
variously coloured GPS satellites that encircle the “blue planet”. The four designs say . . . ***“Rejoice in Christ everyday all around the world”***. The banner is dedicated in memory of Glen Ashdown.

The second banner (centre) is a vine of life starting from dark coloured leaves and working upwards to brighter coloured leaves representing the Light.

The third banner (RHS), ***“Christian Symbols in Celtic Designs”***, from the top down features a descending dove (Holy Spirit), a seven-pointed star (nativity & baptism), a triangle (Trinity), a crown of thorns (crucifixion), the Ionian (LHS) and Maltese (RHS) crosses representing the two congregations, a circle of hearts representing the cooperation between the two churches, a chalice and wafer (Communion), and two fishes (Beatitudes, also an early church symbol).



The five banners along the west wall opposite the organ (two at the left, three below) are in the five liturgical colours. The red (Pentecost, opposite LHS), green (Trinity, opposite RHS), and blue (Advent, below LHS), banners use the “Magic Tiles” quilt pattern by Kathleen Bissett to represent three of the liturgical colours.



The white (Christmas, Epiphany, Easter and other holy days) banner (opposite, centre) was made by strip piecing 45 whites, creams, golds, and caramel colours, not only to show the fourth liturgical colour but also the Path of Light.

The purple (Lent) banner (opposite, RHS) is an original design showing the Path to the Cross and the hope that the Resurrection gives. Material for the

banner was purchased from as far away as Oberammergau, Germany and Arizona in the USA. The purple banner is dedicated in memory of Godfrey (Tipp) Tippet.
