



On Saturday 12th November, a good number of members from the churches in the Harrow & Hillingdon Circuit, as well as further a field, gathered at Hayes Methodist Church for an inspirational session to discover how to make eye-catching posters.

Yvonne Coppock of Posters Plus (www.postersplus.org.uk), and author of "Prepare the way with Posters", had been booked to lead us in "unwrapping God's gift". This theme had been chosen because our churches are looking towards Christmas but also because each of us has our own creative gift within us. Not only did the day teach us some valuable craft techniques but also taught us to appreciate that some people have a talent for ideas but need someone else to turn those ideas into a visual creation.

When we arrived we were encouraged to look at the posters already displayed around the room until it was time to start. All the posters were in different styles and used different techniques but all were very appealing in their own way.

Once everyone had arrived we were asked which were our favourites and why. We then looked at the simplicity of the designs, the combination of picture and words and how sometimes the craft techniques and the choice of lettering style can add to the message being conveyed.

The rest of the time was spent getting creative and producing our own posters. In fact the 2 hour session was so enjoyable that many of us stayed for the afternoon even though we hadn't originally booked for the full day. I even went home at lunch time to bring my daughter back to join us so that she could see the different art techniques used – she's only 9 but ended up making her own poster.

Although I had already seen some of the posters on display featured in Yvonne's book and website, I wasn't prepared for how effectively eye-catching they truly were. I think what stood out most was the depth that these hand made poster had over printed ones and demanded your attention.



A pictorial record of the day including some of the posters that were produced can be found by visiting <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjwUrPxb>

This was the first time that we had held any training of this type but I think it was of great benefit to those who attended and Yvonne said she thought it was one of the best ones she'd led, including the number attending.

The following week, the members who attended from our church shared their finished articles with the rest of the congregation through the display boards in our worship area. We are now looking forward to our new external notice board and advertising events and the Lord's message in style!

Nicola Mercer