

An inspiring journey

A FORMER teacher who is creating an icon for each of the 12 parish saints of Jersey has said she is on target to finish in time for her December exhibition.

Iconographer Karen Blampied has spent the last few months creating the icons and has so far visited nine out of the 12 parish churches as artist in residence.

At each venue she spent a number of days finishing that parish's icon and she said the response from Islanders has been fantastic.

'It has been going really well and I have just three icons left to do as artist in residence,' she said. 'So far I have had probably between 60 and 100 people come to see my work in each church - there was a great, great interest and everyone has been so welcoming.'

'It has been an amazing but overwhelming journey so far. The response I have had has been so positive and so inspiring and having the opportunity to actually be in the church named after that saint has been wonderful.'

Iconographer Karen Blampied has three more icons to complete before December as artist in residence, writes **Lucy Mason**

She added: 'I think what has happened in Jersey is that the saints have become places not people. And I just wanted to make them visible again as people because I still think that even though they existed hundreds, sometimes thousands of years ago, they have still got a story to tell that is relevant to today.'

The finished icons will go on display at All Saints Church between 2 and 19 December along with 12 mini versions. The exhibition will also include information and sketches to show how Miss Blampied, who taught art and religious studies locally for a number of

years, came up with the finished creations.

In the meantime to follow her progress search for Karen Blampied on Facebook and visit her wall or visit the website www.iconspirit.com for more information.

Her next venue as artist in residence will be Grouville Church between 2 and 6 November where she will be working between 10 am and 4.30 pm each day. She will then visit St Saviour's Church between 15 and 20 November, St Clement's Church between 22 and 27 November before the final exhibition at All Saints Church between 2 and 19 December.



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