

Creative Arts Project at St Johns Church Tenby

For three days during the October half term we held a Creative Arts Project at the Church, when 20 local children aged between 6 and 13 attended our first drama workshop. Pete Kingdom and Hannah Lowe, founders of the Inspired Theatre Company of Pembroke, lead the workshops with the help of Tisha Edgar, a student from Ysgol Harry Tudor.

A Winter Storm was our theme for the three days and our first workshop started with a visit from Teeny Lowe, who was Chief Engineer on the Tenby lifeboat, and he talked about a rescue at sea and showed the young people a video taken out at sea during a rescue off Caldy Island. This gave an opportunity or everyone to ask questions and add their own ideas for the project. Teeny introduced the idea of trust and cooperation and the rest of the morning was taken up exploring these ideas through drama based activities.

After lunch, Mollie Neate, one of our Elders, gave a fascinating talk on Barti Ddu known as Black Beard a local Pembrokeshire pirate. The young people were enthralled with the tales of his exploits and ideas from everyone were then included in the production.

We were hoping to include art and film and photography during the three days but we did not receive sufficient applications to make this a viable proposition on this occasion. However, Mollie Neate and Melanie Walker wrote the words for two sea shanties and I composed the music and the songs were incorporated into the final performance.

The course culminated with a performance lasting fifteen minutes which depicted a morning in the town and on the beach followed by the gathering storm. The action then switched to the young people being on a boat during the storm followed by a shipwreck. The next scene showed Barti Ddu the pirate ruling over his sailors and capturing other ships for their treasure after a well choreographed fight scene. All words were written by the children and the performance was given without prompts or hesitation and was much enjoyed by the full church of family and friends who came to show their support.

We would like to thank the Synod of Wales for funding this worthwhile outreach project.

A retiring collection was taken in aid of the Tenby lifeboat.

Jim Walker