

## Project: Queanbeyan Uniting Church

In 2014, Queanbeyan Uniting Church commenced a 'discernment journey' during which the congregation was called to reflect on individual and community values, talents, and spiritual callings. I was invited to help the congregation express individual responses in polymer clay tiles that could be displayed in church as a visual reminder of the journey.



Minister Steve Costa with volunteer helper Jo Palmer at work preparing tiles in my studio



The QUC congregation applying their creativity to polymer clay



A small sample of tiles produced by the QUC congregation



The completed mosaic suspended in QUC

The project required attention to several parameters: quality and longevity; sympathy for the existing décor; capacity to be rearranged or supplemented after completion; and ease of participation for all age groups between 4 and 104.

Over a couple of weeks, volunteer helpers Jo and Merran helped me prepare base tiles in a palette matching the existing mosaic behind the pulpit.

We then held creative sessions after service over a period of 4 weeks. This resulted in production of around 150 unique tiles, each of which had to be packed carefully, transported to my studio, cured and finished with eyelets.

I suspended the finished tiles with invisible nylon on a high tension wire. The advantage of this design is infinite flexibility. The tiles are capable of being suspended chandelier-style or as flat short panels in colour blocks etc.

Unfortunately I was not able to attend the unveiling service. However by all accounts the congregation was highly satisfied. I am now the proud owner of a church-originated weather vane in thanks. As they said, 'the congregation came from the four corners of the compass' but I gave them 'direction'.



The central message reads 'the whole of creation reconciled and renewed'