

## Discipleship Development Worker, July 2018

The highlight of the last month has got to be the work I'm doing on the Bible Women. It's growing like Topsy and has engendered more discussion on the Bible than in the last two years. I started this with the modern women chosen by women using the church, but once I began transferring them with their Biblical counterparts onto the poster roll, people began to suggest further women. This was from people who had been a part of the original discussion, but now the men and other women were making suggestions. One man even came in with an English Heritage magazine that had an article on women honoured with a blue plaque and asked if I could include them too.



People who come to the lunch club have stopped by to ask what I'm doing - it's quite hard to engage with these, because they're busy eating, and you can't really get them to join in when they're having a meal. So for them to approach me has been grand. I've also had the staff who bring the group of people with learning difficulties come to talk to me. They have never taken any notice of my activities before. And the greatest delight was that a man I had called out for racist remarks at the time of the EU referendum came to see what I was doing and stopped for a chat. Ever since I challenged him I have spoken to him every time I have seen him and his wife, determined to be Christ-like in my approach, so for him to be interested in what I'm doing is exciting frontline stuff.



The Slimming World group, I'm told, has had some discussions as a result of the pictures because Deborah features and the lady who runs Slimming World is also called Deborah and she hadn't known the origin of her name. This led to another woman then wanting to know if her name would figure on the poster roll. There has been talk around Sarah, Hagar and their place in the Jewish and Muslim faiths; discussion from both Christian and non-believers alike around characters they didn't know about; and some have even gone home to further research some of the Biblical characters. I was particularly pleased about this last, as that includes a couple of very knowledgeable local preachers.



I draw the next characters on to the poster roll when I am at coffee morning (or in one instance, at the Wednesday Art Club). Having said that, at the last two or three coffee mornings I have not managed to draw anything at all because I've been too busy talking!



I think the nature of the work is very approachable and safe. People are always interested to watch people drawing, and I think people have come to chat because they want to see what I'm doing. And because its cartoons, it's safe enough for people to ask questions. I've been very surprised and very excited at the reaction.

