

S. Mary Stephen



Gillian Grindon-Welch was born in 1930 in Oxfordshire and was educated at New Hall School in Chelmsford, Essex from 1942-1949.

She studied Fine Art at Reading University and on leaving in 1951 entered the Priory of the Resurrection at New Hall, becoming Sister Mary Stephen – a Canoness of the Holy Sepulchre.

She began teaching art at New Hall and built up a thriving and diverse Art Department, teaching print-making, textiles, photography, pottery and sculpture, in addition to drawing and painting.

Her teaching career was interrupted twice for further studies. In 1958 she spent a year in Belgium studying design and in 1974 she attended Swansea Art College for three years.

S. Mary Stephen retired from teaching in 1991 and went on to work in our Pastoral Centre – the Barn – for 10 years. Since then has found time to concentrate on her own artwork, much of which have been published by McCrimmons as banners, posters and cards. In 2008 her new *Stations of the Cross* were used to illustrate the book *Bread Broken* with reflections by Bishop David Konstant and in 2010 she was commissioned to design a banner – *Heart speaks to Heart* - for the Papal visit.

“I don’t do much now” says S. Mary Stephen, as she enters her 90th year, although she does still paint from time-to-time and has produced some beautiful work for individual commissions in recent times. Examples of her artwork can be found on our website [www. canonesses.co.uk/gallery/](http://www.canonesses.co.uk/gallery/) and some are available to purchase – contact projects@canonesses.co.uk.

“In my artwork I try to make visible God’s invisible energy, that life which flows through all creation and is within everything. I aim to find new ways of expressing God’s relationship with us, hoping to reveal something of the deeper meaning within all that we do and believe. Our primary relationship with God is our prayer. These images express some aspects of this.” **Sister Mary Stephen**